



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY EASTER!

Every year, we gather to celebrate this incredible gift of Almighty God – that He has conquered sin and death!

We look back to the beginning, with Adam and Eve, and we see how they turned away from God, breaking their relationship with Him. God did not want to leave us in this separated state – we are His beloved children, and He wanted us to be brought back to His Heart. Being God, He could have redeemed us in any way He chose, including simply willing it. So why did He choose to enter our humanity, suffer a violent death and rise from the grave? We will probably only know the full answer to this question in eternity, but we can ponder this question. I think that He wanted to show us that He was not afraid or scandalized by our weakness and brokenness – that He was not “standoffish,” but would get “down and dirty” into our humanity. It was also the most fitting way that He could manifest His love to us – what we are worth to Him. Lovers don’t ask “What’s the minimum I can do to get by?” they ask “What’s the most I can give?” Jesus could have saved us by decree, or even by shedding one drop of His Blood. He chose to show us what we are worth by shedding every drop of His Blood for us, uniting our humanity – and all its weakness and brokenness – to His Divinity in the Incarnation (becoming flesh), Passion (suffering), death and resurrection.

I think it also speaks truth to the lie at the heart of our rupture with God. When Adam and Eve were tempted (and fell), they bought the lie that God is out to get us, that God is our rival. The serpent said to Eve, “You certainly will not die! God knows well that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods...” (Genesis 3:4-5). He says that God is lying to us, and that He’s afraid of us becoming like Him; He’s our rival! Honestly! If God were against us, could we stand for one moment against Him?! Yet Adam and Eve believed that lie... and we do too, sometimes. Jesus chose to die on the Cross to show us He is NOT against us. God willingly submits to us, letting us kill Him so that He could show us that He is not against us, but for us!

This Easter, may we allow the love of God to enter our hearts and lives. May we remember ALL He has done for us, and so accept the grace and mercy He pours out on us, and rejoice with Him forever.

Happy Easter!