

From the PASTOR'S DESK



Ultimate Victory

Today, across the globe, on Easter morning, sermons are being preached to congregations of various nationalities and backgrounds. Sitting beside one another listening, are multitudes of men and women in different personal circumstances. Some will have hearts full of joy; some will have lives neither especially happy nor especially heavy; some will be distracted with worries and concerns: trying to make ends meet; fighting poor health; struggling with relationships; feeling the weight of the world on their shoulders.

And yet, despite all their differences, there is the same humanity, the same human condition, the same message of Easter: *Death and sin have been overcome! The Lord is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

This is the message: in the Resurrection of Christ, the love of God is greater than anything that life might throw at us, and ultimate victory is assured. No matter what we face, we have a sure ground for hope. And yet, for most of us, the sufferings of life do not just fade away.

Good News of Resurrection does not push aside our troubles. We continue to laugh, and we continue to cry. That is not necessarily a bad thing. To laugh and to cry is for us in our humanity, the very same humanity that Christ possessed, the humanity which engages with a world that is both beautiful and difficult, the very same world that Christ came to save. But now, with the certainty of the ultimate victory of the love of God over anything that life might throw at us, our laughter and tears take on a new meaning: they become part of the great story of the salvation of the world.

Laughter remains and so do problems - for most of us. The glorious news of the Resurrection is not that the human condition has been swept away. Instead, it speaks to us, no matter where we are, no matter what we have to face. Since that blessed morning two thousand years ago, the divine plan is revealed. Nothing can change the reality that is so much greater than whatever our personal circumstances may be. *Death and sin have been overcome. Alleluia!*

Fr. Hernan Cely
Pastor

