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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we gather this year to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, we cannot avoid our circumstances. Shadows of sin and death loom large over us. The pandemic, our experience of social unrest and daily violence on our streets, and, of course, the horrors of war in Ukraine and other parts of the world—all remind us how much we need the Lord's redemptive and healing power in our lives.

Our source of hope amid these challenges is anchored in all that we have witnessed in the liturgies of Holy Week. We have celebrated that the Lord Jesus entered into the fullness of our human experience. He went to the very darkest edges of that human experience. He entered into our suffering, struggle, and even our desperation, when he cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" He squarely faced sin and death on the cross.

And it was precisely in the moment he fully emptied himself, placing himself totally in the hands of God, that he was raised up from the dead victorious. But, his rising from the dead is not just a matter of his personal vindication. He came back from the dead for us, to give us a share in his victory. This is what takes place in our Baptism, which is confirmed in the Holy Spirit, and sustained by the Eucharist. He lives in us, and his victory over sin and death lives in us as well.

As Pope Francis reminds us, we need to share the victory of the resurrection with others, as Jesus did with us. We do this by being sisters and brothers to one another. As Church, we are a family of faith that walks with each other in moments of pain, struggle, and grief, keeping alive the promise that Jesus, the victor over sin and death, remains with us. We are never abandoned. My prayer for all of us in the Archdiocese of Chicago is that we will stand firm in hope, confident that the One who has gone before us in death has come back from the dead for us. May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Archbishop of Chicago