



Office of the Bishop

Pascha 2025

Beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord,

Christ is risen! Indeed, He is risen!

Moments of great change are upon us. New events and circumstances confront us all, regardless of our political orientation or economic circumstances, where we live or what languages we speak. What we may have taken for granted up to now, the very landscape of our lives, all that we have counted upon and everything we thought we knew suddenly seems “up for grabs,” liable to be lost or taken from us. Our lives and our prospects may change in an instant, for better or for worse. For many in our nation and around the world it already has. It is moments like these that can drive us to our knees in prayer—some in despair, others in gratitude and praise. Much of that seems to depend on what we personally must deal with, rather than on the fortunes or misfortunes of others.

So, it is all the more important that our faith become far more than a habit or cultural practice. We need our faith in Jesus Christ to become the cornerstone of our very existence, the firm object of our hope. In this hope and because of it, surrender to the will of God becomes our greatest weapon and abandonment to God’s providence our greatest security.

Blessed Cardinal Iuliu Hossu famously used to say, "Our faith is our life!" Like the Apostle Paul, He proclaimed that message from the altar and from his prison cell: “My eager expectation and hope is that I shall not be put to shame in any way, but that with all boldness, now as always, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. *For to me life is Christ, and death is gain*” (Philippians 1:20-22).

Our faith tells us that God is in control of history, and that the victory over evil and death won by Jesus Christ in His crucifixion, death, and resurrection is certain. It is definitive, and it is final. It is not, however, immediate. Indeed, does not Our Lord Himself tell us: “I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world” (John 16:33)?

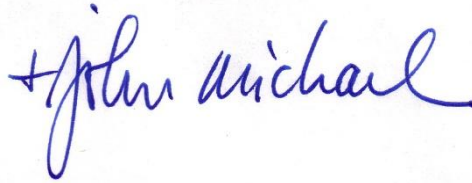
When we proclaim with the Blessed Martyr Cardinal Hossu that "our faith is our life," we declare, as he did, that we are committing our lives to Jesus, regardless of what may

befall us. We may live in poverty, or we may live in plenty, in tyranny or liberty. We will do the best we can as we are able, but Christ will not abandon us, even if our future may be obscure, the road treacherous, and the night long: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you," (John 14:18); "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

When we declare, "Christ is risen!" we do not tell the story of an event that occurred in the past. We proclaim the dynamic, ongoing, and eternal reality in which we live. Note that the expression is "Christ *is risen*," not "Christ *was raised*," for He truly is alive and dwells in our midst forever. When we acknowledge His abiding presence, especially in the Mystery of the Holy Eucharist, we are putting our faith not in a promise about the future, but in a reality of the present, the here and now.

Every time we turn our lives, moment in and moment out, along with all our fears and anxieties, our hopes and our joys, to the Christ who is living in us, our faith truly does become our life. It is what we live and not just a pious exercise or empty slogan we utter at Eastertime. When our faith becomes our life, then it is that we truly *begin to live*.

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ John Michael". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

+ John Michael, a sinner

Bishop