

My brothers and sisters in the Risen Lord,

Christ Jesus truly is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!

In just a few months we have followed Jesus from his birth in Bethlehem to His death on Calvary. We now celebrate his Resurrection. We could have never imagined how our world would have changed so radically in just a few months. Yet here we are ... praying intently each day that the plague of the coronavirus will soon be behind us.

As followers of Christ, we believe that the world has been given new life, a fresh start, another chance with the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. We believe that Jesus, the light of the world, shines victorious over the powers of evil and darkness. We are called to share in that light of Christ - to be children of the light. The dark days, we pray, will soon be behind us. Pain, death, hardship and confusion will be replaced by peace and mercy. You and I are called to become instruments of Christ's peace and mercy. First in us, then in the rest of the world, we pray, peace and mercy shall abound!

The message of Easter is always one of hope and assurance. We are never alone or powerless when we experience the presence of God in a new and vibrant way through the Resurrection of Jesus. We rejoice in the Lord because He gives us a share in His life, His love, His peace and His mercy.

On that first Easter morning when our Risen Savior greeted His first followers He used a phrase we use at every Mass: "Peace be with you," (John 20:21). During these weeks of Easter we pray for peace: for ourselves, our nation and our world. But we want to also pray for the grace to be God's instruments of peace and mercy. As God is so generously merciful to us, we must learn to be all the more merciful to others.

By the way we live our lives, we are to attract others to living more faithful lives, following our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ, all the way to His Heavenly Kingdom.

May God bless you with His Easter Peace!  
Monsignor Puleo