

Hau 'oli Pakoa! Happy Easter my brothers and sisters in Christ! Parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

April 12, 2020

Jesus Christ is Risen today, Alleluia, Alleluia! He is truly Risen Alleluia, Alleluia!

Wishing everyone a truly blessed Easter!

Despite the damper we may feel with the Covid -19 Pandemic this Easter morning, what truly is important has not change at all; Jesus Christ Risen has conquered sin and death and He is with us.

The fruits of such a wonderous redeeming event is evident throughout our human history.

Christians have borne the persecutions of empires, heresies, disasters and diseases of all kinds, yet in all these we Christians have endured and triumphed over them.

Joseph Stalin is said to have asked an adviser, dismissively, "How many divisions does the Pope have?" Of course, he spoke sarcastically even as the Pope had millions of Catholic Christians all over the world, militarily he had not one to muster against Stalin.

Throughout the 2 millennia, Christians have faced and even today do in parts of the world, persecutions, obstacles and barriers that cost their lives to live out their Faith.

St. Paul had known and in person experienced such trials as he followed Jesus Christ as a disciple, yet he was truly convinced in the triumph of Jesus Christ Risen.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37 – 39).

The historical event of today, the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, though it happened 2,000 years ago, unlike any historical event is a living event, that the Risen Lord is with us in person, even as He was present then to the Apostles and to the disciples throughout the ages, even to us today in 2020.

Today on this Happy Easter Morning, let us reaffirm our Faith in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ present in our midst and place our hope and trust in the One who conquered death and sin.

God bless you all, Fr. Paulo ofm cap.