
Easter Message from the Archbishop - 2011

“Experiencing the New Life of Easter”

Dear faithful of the archdiocese,

The Lord is risen, alleluia! Happy Easter to you all.

At the Easter vigil, we heard these words from the Gospel of Matthew: “Come and see.” “Go and tell.” The resurrection of Jesus gives us a clear mission as the Church.

We are first of all invited to come and see, to believe in and to experience the power of the resurrection. The apostles entered the tomb and believed. For her part, Mary Magdalene was taught to let go of Jesus, to not cling to him, to let him ascend. That means that like them and like her we are to enter our own tombs and grieve, mourn and accept our losses through the power of the Spirit of the Risen Lord. That is how we can experience the appearances of Jesus.

Later, in the upper room, the apostles who had denied and abandoned Jesus, experienced his unconditional forgiveness and were then empowered to forgive. We too, need to let go of resentments and to forgive anyone who has hurt us through the power of that same Spirit. That is our experience of the ascension of Jesus.

Then, having experienced the power of the resurrection in our own lives, we are sent on mission, to go and tell the whole world what has happened to us, what can happen to all humanity, and to invite all others to share in this Good News.

What could be more exalted than that? We are apostles of the resurrection, called to believe, to experience, to live the resurrection of Jesus in our own lives, and to invite the rest of the world to join us in walking in newness of life, and in the likeness of the resurrection of Jesus.

The Returning to our Roots process that we initiated across the archdiocese the First Sunday of Lent is an opportunity for us all to experience more deeply this new life of Easter. Again, I strongly encourage each and every one of us to participate fully in this process. Especially during this initial year with its focus on prayer, I invite each community to consider having a retreat on prayer, as well as special activities throughout the year on prayer. May we thus deepen our experience of the Risen Lord in our own lives, families and faith communities.

Sincerely in the Risen Lord and Mary Immaculate,

Most Reverend Sylvain Lavoie OMI