

Christ is Risen!

We have come through a period of fasting and self-examination, of self-denial and quiet, a period of reflection and prayer, and now we have arrived to this blessed period of Pascha when we proclaim the joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Indeed, this unique event in human history has effectively changed the world. From a small group of people who lived and walked and talked with Jesus – the group of people that now calls Him Lord covers the world. Mighty is His name!

It is my prayer that in this joy you and I will have felt a change in our hearts and in our lives. In offering Himself for us, our Lord gave the ultimate sacrifice of the Divine so that our human frailty and mortality could be changed and uplifted.

And so we are called upon to consider how we may have been changed by the love and self-sacrifice of God for us.

Have we actually understood that God has changed our lives forever? Have we recognized that with each Pascha we are called upon to be raised up from the darkness of the sin of our human mortality into the Light of the Eternal Kingdom of God?

Before we come to the end of the 40 days of Jesus on earth and his Ascension into the heavens, I would ask that each of us stop and consider how our minds, hearts, and souls can now be renewed. In truth, the Lord has opened the door of change for us – but we must be willing to walk through that door.

In these next forty days, as we share the greeting “Christ is Risen!” with each other, please remember that this greeting is our own personal call to change and growth. Each of us has been called out of the darkness of our own personal sin and mortality into the reality of the Kingdom.

In these next days, let us find those with whom we are at odds and proclaim our unity in the Risen Christ! Let us confirm our commitment to our Holy Faith and Church by truly reflecting in our actions and behaviors what it means to be a child of God. And above all, let us remember to thank and glorify Him who made this change possible.

For truly, the Lord is Risen, and we are with Him!

~Metropolitan NICHOLAS of Detroit