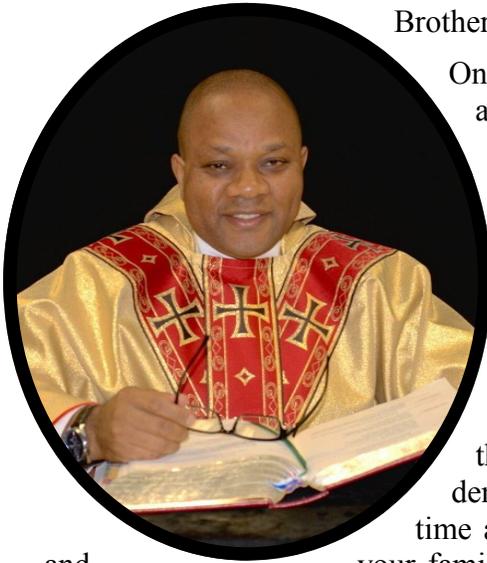


FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!

On behalf of our parish staff, Susan, Jean, the Parish Council, and the Finance Committee, we extend warm wishes to you and your dear families on this blessed celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, our most central Feast in the Church. We have every reason to be joyous as Christians, in that we are alive today to honor this remarkable occurrence as the basis of our Faith. That is why St. Paul encourages the Colossians to “think of what is above, not on what is on earth.” (Colo: 3:2).

I am particularly grateful to our many volunteers throughout the past Holy Week ceremonies. In various ways, you have demonstrated your love for our faith community through your time and treasures. We as a parish are extremely grateful to you and your families in the roles you played to make our weekly worship – and especially this year’s Easter festivities – solemn and reflective.

Each time we recall the resurrection of our Lord, I am humbled that I am a Christian. The Gospel of John today confirms the empty tomb. No founder of any other religion left an empty tomb like Jesus. Neither the Jews nor the Romans could even disprove Jesus’ Resurrection by revealing the dead body of Jesus, for they found none. The Apostle Peter laid the foundation in our First Reading as he boldly proclaims the empty tomb. The early Christians were absolutely firm about the Resurrection of Jesus. Otherwise, they would not have faced martyrdom for a dead leader lying in a tomb.

Therefore, today’s celebration of hope is one of renewal and encouragement for a world awash in doubt and sorrow. It re-inspires us that life is worth living! Within this context, the Easter narrative gives meaning to our personal as well as our communal prayer. Easter confirms the resplendent message that we are a “Resurrection People!” This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our harmful habits, addictions, anger, or pride. In eliminating those sins, we become an open conduit for Jesus’ outpouring of love.

Given that Christ’s Resurrection grants us the hope of seeing our loved ones again, we pray to be equally graced with the strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. We are invited to live a joyful and peaceable life, constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives.

Finally, in the understanding that this is the greatest act of God’s demonstration of His love for humanity, we too need to live lives of love in the power of Jesus’ Resurrection. Each time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy, and forgiveness, we fight against temptations. Let us reaffirm that we share in the Resurrection of Jesus here and now.

A very Joyous Easter!