



## Diocese of Pennsylvania and its Affiliated Regions

### The Glorious Feast of the Resurrection Message- April 28, 2019

My beloved brethren and children-the priests, deacons, servants, and dearly love congregation:

#### **Christos Anesti - Alithos Anesti. Christ is Risen - Truly He is Risen**

This is truly a joyful greeting we use throughout the Holy 50 Days as we share in the joy of the heavenly hosts for the Resurrection. If there is joy in heaven over one repentant sinner, how much more joyful for the salvation of mankind over sin and death.

Christ rose as He is the Giver of Life, confirming His glorious Resurrection through many appearances to His disciples. Likewise, the angels announced the good news to the women saying, "*He is not here, but is risen!*" (Luke 24:6).

As the core of the apostles' preaching, the Resurrection is the cornerstone of our faith. And as Christ rose, we will rise with Him in glory. As St. Paul said, "*If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty, and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God... But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*" (1 Corinthians 15:14-22)

As we rejoice in the Resurrection, we live in the Resurrection. We experience the glory of the Resurrection daily through the power of repentance which frees us from sin, weakness, and death. "*Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light*" (Ephesians 5:14). This power and grace grant us to live with firm faith, perfect peace, and everlasting joy. Through faith in Christ's death and Resurrection, we taste eternity and the heavenly reward. We sanctify Christ in our hearts, ready with a defense for the hope that is in us, always looking for the things which are not seen. "*If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God*" (Colossians 3:1).

The Resurrection is the joyful gospel that we preach - the gospel of a victorious life over sin, declaring the One who transferred us from darkness to light, death into life.

The good news of the Resurrection was fruitful in the believers during the apostolic era. They witnessed with their life and their teaching to the power of their faith and the Resurrection, bearing fruit that overcame the wickedness of the world, heresies, indulgence, and idolatry.

Likewise, the Resurrection must bear its fruit in our spiritual life. As St. Paul said, "*that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death*" (Philippians 3:10). Following the path of our Fathers the Apostles, Christ leads us in victory as we witness to the Resurrection and inherit our heavenly gift in Him.

I wish you a glorious feast of the Resurrection in all peace and joy.

**Bishop Karas**

**Bishop of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.**