



Easter 2015

*"'Twas Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees filled all the air with fragrance and with joy."* - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Our joy is complete, Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Our Easter Season commences today celebrating our Risen Lord. What does that really mean? In a world where everyone wants evidence or proof, how do we know that Christ is risen?

You need look no further than the nearest tree, blade of grass, blooming bush or flower. As Longfellow proclaims, the rebirth is so alive in spring it fills the air with joy. The remarkable spectacle of the reawakened grass, the slow unfurling of leaves on the trees, the graceful sprouting of flowers year after year is a testament to the Resurrection. These events are not casual, unrelated events. They are a constant reminder of resurrected life. After the most brutal of winters, spring still comes, and the earth is still made new. So too, after the horrific torture and death of our Lord, he arose and made the world new. And that is the cause of our joy.

If the Resurrection is the cause of our joy, how do we embrace it and harness its transforming power? Pope Francis has given us a very special opportunity to do just that. He has declared the *Jubilee Year of Mercy* to commence on December 8, 2015. This year will focus on the mercy of God at its center. The Pope is calling upon the whole Church *"to find this jubilee the joy of rediscovering and making fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and every woman of our time."*

We need not wait until December 8, 2015. Our call to mercy begins today with the celebration of God's redemptive power demonstrated through the death and resurrection of our Lord. Our joy propels us to transform our hearts, to embrace the mercy of God and share it with all whom we encounter in need of such mercy. It is not just in forgiving, but in our compassionate love that we live out this mission of mercy. People in need of our consolation surround us in our families, our schools, our workplaces, our communities, and our world. Our gestures of mercy need not be grand, the smallest kindnesses can be transformative if done with love. And each time we show such kindness, we will experience the depths of new life and rebirth ourselves. Like the "full blossomed trees" the earth will be filled with joy!

Today is the feast day for my community – the Congregation of Resurrection - and for you as my fellow journeyers in the charism of the community - to bring the hope, joy and peace of Christ's Resurrection to all people. Make the day a true day of celebration, but remember it is only the first day of an entire season of joy. And our joy is not limited by a season - we have the formula for creating joy wherever we go as we share the hope, joy and peace of the Resurrection of our Lord.

On this Easter Sunday I give thanks for the blessing of this community of faith. I am blessed to be able to share in your journey of faith. I am blessed to have each and every one of you as a fellow Resurrectionist. I am blessed to know that together we can *restore all things in Christ*. I pray that the Risen Lord will continue to bless you today and every day of this Easter Season.

May you have a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Sincerely yours in the Risen Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Zięba" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. George Zięba, CR  
Pastor