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*****PASCHA*****

Christ IS Risen! Indeed He IS Risen! Christos Voskres! Voistinu Voskres! Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! Christos a inviat! Adeverat a inviat!

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father John Harvey, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Joshua Agosto and his family, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Vince Ferro, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie— young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael

Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Diane McDaniel, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Stroz [child with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Jamie Gardner, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Ronald Graham [Evelyn's nephew], Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Susan Bertram, Rita McConnell, Gail, Pete Special, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Kareen Milcic, Ella Campbell, Kurt Smith, Tom Hyatt, Kenneth Miller [double-lung transplant], Jeanneen McCartney Thomson, Peggy Uhring [Eddie Behun's girlfriend], Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Manny Lopez, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Joe Matts, Nancy Heinbaugh, Harry Bohichik, Judi Danser, Mira Filipovic, Vicki Rathbun, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, and Daria Masur ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

PRAYER LIST: Please help update our prayer list. If you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the prayer list or if there is someone who needs to be on the list please let Father Bob know. Remember—Prayers are ALWAYS FREE! Thank you!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR "BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION" AND CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, APRIL 20 PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY 10:30 AM
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA OF THE LORD
THE BRIGHT AND HOLY RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS
CHRIST**

*****Page 179 in the Black Divine Liturgy Books*****

Paschal Tones

Acts 1:1-8

John 1:1-17

**SUNDAY, APRIL 27 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
ANTIPASCHA; 2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY
SAINT MARTIN THE CONFESSOR-POPE OF ROME; MARTYR ARDALION THE
ACTOR; MARTYR AZAT THE EUNUCH & 1000 MARTYRS IN PERSIA; MARTYRS
ANTHONY, JOHN, & EUSTATHIUS OF VILNIUS**

Tone 1

Acts 5:12-20

John 20:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of Martha Batch—Harry Batch & Family

**SUNDAY, MAY 04 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN;
RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS; SAINTS MARY & MARTHA-
SISTERS OF SAINT LAZARUS; HIEROMARTYR JANUARIUS-BISHOP OF**

**BENVENTO & COMPANIONS-FESTUS, PROCLUS, & SOSIUS-DEACONS,
DESIDERIUS-READER, & EUTYCHIUS & ACUTIUS-LAYMEN—AT POZZUOLI**

Tone 2

Acts 6:1-7

Mark 15:43-16:8

***Litany in Blessed Memory of +Metropolitan Constantine, Charles Cherepko,
Anna Metrick, Bogdan Mural, Khouria Joanne Abdalla, Katherine Tomson,
Walter Golofski, Jr., Joseph Baloga, Anna Vangrin, Anthony Notaro, Esther
Tylavsky, Evdokia Josephine Repa, Daniel J. Pysh, Jr., Metro Warholak, & Stella
Cherepko—Fr. Bob***

Parastas in Blessed Memory of Nicholas & Catherine Behun—Behun Family

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 20 APRIL 2014

**GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA OF THE LORD
THE BRIGHT AND HOLY RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR
JESUS CHRIST**

*****Page 179 in the Black Divine Liturgy Books*****

**The Paschal Epistle
of the Permanent Conference of Ukrainian Orthodox Bishops Beyond the Borders of Ukraine for 2014 in
the Year of Our Lord**



*To the Reverend Clergy, the Diaconate in Christ, Venerable Monastics and all the faithful of the Ukrainian
Orthodox Church beyond the borders of Ukraine and on Ukrainian native land,*

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE HAS RISEN!

For almost 2,000 years these words have been uttered with great joy and spiritual strength from the lips of millions of Christians all over the world. The Resurrection of Christ forms the greatest event that has changed forever their lives and that has fulfilled the meaning and hope for the future.

The Holy Orthodox Church calls Pascha the Feast of Feasts and the Festival of Festivals. (*Easter Matins, Canticle 8*). The Lord's Pascha is celebrated by the entire Christian world, but only the Orthodox Church celebrates with such illumination and immense excitement, expressing through her Paschal services, the deep spiritual joy and the triumph of life over death.

For Orthodox Christians the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection becomes the greatest event in their personal life because, now, the day of their birth and the day of their death carry different meaning and importance. By His Holy Resurrection, Christ overcomes death and grants people eternal life. The Holy Apostle Paul writes, "If Christ had not risen, then our preaching is empty and our faith is empty." (1 Cor 15: 14) Without the Lord's Resurrection, the Church of Christ would not exist, salvation would be impossible and faith

would be futile. There would be no hope, no everlasting life and Christianity would exist like a school of philosophy, having a teacher for a limited group of disciples.

God did not leave us orphans in this world, imbued with sins and death. He did not forget us, His prodigal children. He did not leave His creation in the darkness of sin and damnation. With love for us, He sent His Only-Begotten Son. From the time of the birth of the Son of God, born from the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, the Bethlehem star shone in the heavens for the entire world, showing humans the road to God through the darkness of sin and death. For God loved us so much that He even gave His Only-Begotten Son to death so that we should not die, but have eternal life. Yet, Christ is risen, and by His death, He overcame death.

St. John Chrysostom in his sixth homily about Pascha writes, "The sacred rays of Christ's light already shine; the long and dark night is absorbed; cloudy death is hidden; life is open for everyone; all things are fulfilled; Great Christ appears to everyone in inexhaustible light, brighter than the sun." We can compare the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ to a star in the dark. It shows us that the road and the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is brighter than the light of the sun, according to St. John Chrysostom. As we all know, there is no life without sunlight. Without the Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, true life, eternal life, cannot exist for us.

In the Holy Gospel we learn that, when He appeared to His Disciples after His Holy Resurrection, the first greeting of our Lord Jesus Christ was: "Peace be with you." He repeated these words on many occasions and they carry great meaning. With His Holy Resurrection, the Lord provides us with an opportunity for the forgiveness of sins and for unity with Him, and through Him, peace and harmony with oneself, with our neighbours and with all creation in the world. In this year 2014, from the time of the Nativity of our Lord, Ukraine continues to experience its greatest trial since achieving independence. With pain, anxiety and prayers, we beseech that our Risen Lord bestow peace upon the long-suffering people of Ukraine so that, after the anguish and tribulations which they continue to endure, our Ukrainian nation will witness the light of the Holy Resurrection on its own land in peace.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE HAS RISEN!

With hierarchical blessing,

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **ANTONY**, Metropolitan, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

Locum Tenens Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

† **IOAN**, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Diaspora

† **JEREMIAH**, Archbishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Eparchy of Brazil and South America

† **ILARION**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **ANDRIY**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada

† **DANIEL**, Bishop, Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE USA
CONSISTORY OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS**

PRESS RELEASE

PATRIARCHAL ENCYCLICAL FOR HOLY PASCHA

† BARTHOLOMEW

*By the mercy of God Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
to the Plenitude of the Church - Grace, Peace and Mercy from Christ Risen in Glory
Christ is Risen!*

Come, brethren and children in the Lord, receive the light from the unwaning Light of the Phanar, the Holy Center of the Orthodox, and let us all together and jointly glorify "Christ, Who is risen from the dead."

The emotional state of the Lord's disciples was grim after His Crucifixion because, by the Lord's death on the Cross, the hopes of His disciples were dispersed that He and they would one day prevail as a political power. They had perceived the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, following the resurrection of Lazarus and the miraculous feeding of five thousand men, with additional women and children, by five loaves of bread and two fish, as a prelude of their conquering of secular authority. The mother of two of them, moreover, requested that her two sons sit by each side of the Lord when He came to power. All these, however, dissipated as childish imaginations on account of the awful execution of Jesus Christ.

However, the first day of the week (Sunday), the Myrrh-bearers found the tomb empty and heard from an Angel that Jesus was risen from the dead. Shortly after, they saw Him in a different state not allowing the Myrrh-bearers to touch Him. This unexpected development of the situation caused the people close to Jesus to wonder about what was to happen next. They did not receive the answer right away. They were told to wait with patience and endurance until they received strength from above. Obeying the command, they waited until Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came down and revealed to them in fullness their new mission. This mission did not call for the liberation of one nation from its slavery bondages by another nation. Rather, it called for the liberation of all humanity from its enslavement by the master of evil and evil itself. This was another great mission and different from the one they had dreamt about.

The inconceivable commandment calling for the preaching of the message of man's deliverance from the slavery of death took them by surprise. Nevertheless, they undertook it with zeal and preached the message everywhere, and saved and continue to save many from death. There is the first among the dead, the risen Jesus, Who offers to all the gift of resurrection and eternal life, a life that is not subjected any longer to corruptibility because man in the resurrected state is like an angel of God in heaven who no longer has a fleshly body, but a spiritual one.

We already experience the foretaste of this blessed resurrected state when we carry our fleshly garment in a way by which we do not taste the substance of death, that is, the distancing from God's love, but feel that we transition from the natural death of our fleshly body to the higher life of our spiritual body through the loving knowledge of the Person of the Lord, a knowledge which equals towards eternal life.

Therefore, we are not simply in anticipation of the resurrection of the dead as an event that will take place in the distant future, but we partake in it now, and are jubilant and cry out along with Saint John Chrysostom: *Death, where is your sting? Hades, where is your victory?* We were resurrected alongside Jesus Christ and experience the end of time as present reality and present reality as the end of time. The resurrection permeates our being and fills us with joy, precisely like the joy the disciples felt when they were saying that the Lord was risen.

We continue the work of the Apostles. We convey to the world the message of the resurrection. We preach knowingly that death must not have a place in our life for it offers no benefit to humanity. The ones who seek to improve social life by killing fellow humans do not offer good service to the living. They rather serve the proliferation of death and prepare their own devouring by death.

In our times, the drums of death and darkness beat frantically. Some fellow men believe that the eradication of other fellow men is a praiseworthy and beneficial act, but they are seriously mistaken. Unfortunately, the annihilation and suppression of the weakest by the strongest dominates in the secular pyramid of today's reality. Often, we are shocked by the cruelty and lack of compassion exhibited by the powerful that hold the reins of the world, believing that they are actually the ones ruling it.

However, Christ, by His death on the Cross, reversed this secular pyramid and placed on top of it His Cross. He sits atop because He suffered the most than any man. There was no man in the world who suffered as much as God-Man Christ did: *And being founding appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the Cross. Therefore God, the Father, also has given Him the name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven and of those on earth, and of those under the earth (Phil 2:8-11).*

Oftentimes, in the history of humanity we see as prevailing forces the darkness of death, injustice over justice, hatred and envy over love and we see that man chooses the infernal hatred over the light of the Resurrection. Despite the apparent technological progress of human societies, despite the declarations of human rights and religious freedom, racial and religious hatred swells universally and causes dangerous tensions, which exacerbate the dominion of the kingdom of death, Hades, and evil. Unfortunately, people cannot tolerate diversity in their fellow human beings. They cannot tolerate the different racial origin of other men, the different perceptions and beliefs of them, be it political, religious or social.

History, though, has proven that real progress cannot exist without God. Not one society can be truly progressive and happy if there is no freedom. True freedom, however, is acquired only with our staying close to God. The history of the 20th C tragically confirms this truth.

Humanity experienced a horror that originated from Central Europe and produced millions of victims during WWII and racial persecutions. At the same time, it also experienced the horror that was sown by these so-called progressive forces which committed crimes of equal magnitude and cruelty in Eastern Europe in the name of freedom. Therefore, totalitarianism, as an offspring of a humanity without Christ, does not recognize political parties and its natural conclusion becomes destruction and death. All of the above confirm that every attempt to reach freedom without God shall be doomed to tragedy.

To this dominance of the forces of darkness, the Church responds with the grace and power of the Risen Christ. He, Who took upon Himself the afflictions and infirmities

of each man, offers to the world through His Resurrection also the certainty that *death is vexed*.

Resurrection and life are the gifts and the light of Jesus Christ which "shines upon all." Let us all honor this gift. Let us all thank the Giver, Who by His flesh, shone in the world like in a mirror and has presented the light of the resurrection to the world. Let us then receive the light from the unwaning Light of Life. Let us receive and welcome the gift of the resurrection and cry out from the bottom of our hearts:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling over death by death, and to those in the grave bestowing Life! Rejoice nations and be happy!

Holy Pascha 2014

† Bartholomew of Constantinople

Your fervent supplicant before God



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call "brothers" even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry: Christ is Risen from the Dead! (Doxastikon of Pascha)

Pascha 2014

To the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of Parish Councils, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Members of Philanthropic Organizations, the Youth and Youth Workers, and the entire Orthodox Christian Family in North and Central America Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the name of the Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we greet you with the salvific and vibrant message of Holy Pascha: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Together, as one family, we have completed the spiritual journey of Great Lent. Standing on Golgotha with the Most-blessed Theotokos and John the Evangelist, we have witnessed the Author of creation nailed to the Cross. With boldness and profound faith, together with Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, we have dared to touch the life-giving Body of our Lord. And with the Myrrh-bearing Women, we have received the eternal peace and experienced the deafening silence of the Cenotaph of Jesus Christ.

Through the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, humanity, along with the rest of creation, has been liberated and transformed. Indeed, we no longer speak about a world that is estranged from God since creation has been *delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God* (Romans 8: 20-21). Once frail and mortal, humanity is now a spring of vigor in and for the world. Therefore, we are all called not only to *come receive the Light*, but to also embrace our neighbors as *brother and sister*, sharing with them the *Light of Christ that illumines all*.

With heartfelt paternal love, we pray that this blessed Paschal Season illumines and invigorates your hearts and minds, and that your families experience the eternal joy of the Holy Resurrection.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

The Members of the Assembly of Canonical
Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America

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Protocol 56/14

April 20, 2014—Holy Pascha—The Feast of Feasts

To the Most Reverend Hierarchs, the Reverend Priests and Deacons, the Monks and Nuns, the Presidents and Members of the Parish Councils of the Greek Orthodox Communities, the Distinguished Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Day, Afternoon, and Church Schools, the Philoptochos Sisterhoods, the Youth, the Hellenic Organizations, and the entire Greek Orthodox Family in America

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

On this beautiful and glorious Feast of Feasts, our hearts and minds are filled with brilliant light and abundant joy in the presence of the Risen Christ. He is in our midst now and forever in all His holiness and glory, having offered Himself as a pure sacrifice for our sins. He is before us and within us as the Victor over corruption and death, offering true and abundant life through His grace. Our Lord embraces us on this day of exaltation and praise as our Redeemer, guiding us in the way of salvation and sanctifying us for eternal life.

Through faith we affirm that Christ is Risen and is among us, and we bear witness of His Resurrection and presence through our participation in the Holy Eucharist. In this Great Mystery, the pure Body and precious Blood of the Risen Lord is offered for us and to us. Through faith and our reception of the sacrament, we are joined with the One who lives! This is the essential relationship of the Feast of Pascha and the Holy Eucharist, a relationship that is the foundation of our celebration of the Divine Liturgy throughout the year.

We sing in the hymns of this holy day, "Christ...of His own good will did sacrifice Himself for all, a Pascha of purification." This is a Pascha of purification because the One who was without sin gave Himself for us. We give thanks, we celebrate a Holy Eucharist for His pure sacrifice, and through His pure Body and precious Blood we are purified. Our souls and our bodies are cleansed by receiving the Risen Lord in the holiest of mysteries.

This day is also proclaimed as a Pascha of incorruption. "God...is become man, and suffers as a mortal; and through suffering clothes mortality with the grace of incorruption." The fetters of death and corruption could not hold the power of grace and true life. Through our Lord's Crucifixion and Resurrection we are transfigured by Him and through Him from death to life. Through our communion with Him and of Him, our

body that was sown in corruption, dishonor, and weakness, is raised in incorruption, glory and power (I Corinthians 15:42-43).

With jubilation we also celebrate this day as a Pascha of redemption and salvation. It is "an all-venerable Pascha, a Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer, a Pascha of the faithful, a Pascha that has opened unto us the gates of Paradise..." It is the day of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, and it is the day of our resurrection from all that destroys unto all that transforms, renews, and sanctifies for all eternity.

In the Holy Eucharist we celebrate Christ's absolute sacrifice and His superb victory as the ultimate reality. We approach the sacred Body and Blood of the Risen Christ praying that His "divine, glorious, immaculate and life-creating Mysteries are received for purification and sanctification and as an earnest of the life and kingdom to come." (Prayer of St. John of Damascus) We proclaim today and through the Holy Mystery that today is the Day of Salvation, and as we receive Him in faith our Lord grants to us life everlasting and great mercy.

As we come together on this sacred day in our beautiful celebration of Holy Pascha, may our hearts be filled with joy, our minds at peace, and our souls renewed in the hope of His promises. On this day and throughout the year, may we be renewed and strengthened in grace by receiving the Body and Blood of the Christ in the Holy Eucharist. May I also wish to you and your families, a holy and glorious Pascha filled with the mercy and abundant blessings of Jesus Christ, the One who is risen from the dead, who has trampled down death, and who bestows life upon us all.

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

With paternal love in the Risen Lord,

†DEMETRIOS, Archbishop of America

PALM SUNDAY: "WHO ARE WE BEFORE JESUS WHO TRIUMPHS AND BEFORE JESUS WHO SUFFERS?"

Vatican City, 13 April 2014 (VIS) Today in St. Peter's Square Pope Francis began the rites of Holy Week with the solemn liturgical celebration of Palm Sunday and the Passion of the Lord.

The ceremony began with the blessing of the palms and the olive branches placed beside the obelisk in the Square, carried in procession to the entrance of the basilica. The young people of Rome and other diocese took part in the celebration, in relation to the 29th World Youth Day, which this year takes the theme, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

The Pope based his homily on the question, "Who am I, before my Lord? Who am I, before Jesus Who enters Jerusalem on this feast day? Who am I, before Jesus Who suffers?"

This week, we begin with a celebratory procession with olive branches: all the people welcome Jesus. Children and young people sing in praise of Jesus. But this week proceeds in the mystery of Jesus' death and His resurrection. We have listened to the Passion of the Lord. It will do us good to ask the question, who am I? Who am I before

my Lord? Who am I, before Jesus Who enters Jerusalem on this feast day? Am I able to express my joy, to praise Him? Or do I keep my distance? Who am I, before Jesus Who suffers?

We have heard many names: the group of leaders, some who are priests, some Pharisees, some doctors of the Law, who had decided to kill Him. They waited for the opportunity to take Him. Am I like one of them?

We have also heard another name: Judas. Thirty coins. Am I like Judas? We have heard of other names: the disciples who understood nothing, who slept while the Lord suffered. Do I spend my life asleep? Or am I like the disciples, who did not understand what it was to betray Jesus? Like that other disciple who wanted to resolve everything by the sword: am I like them? Am I like Judas, who pretended to love and to kiss the Master in order to deliver Him into the hands of His enemy, to betray Him? Am I a traitor? Am I like those leaders who are quick to judge and seek false witnesses: am I like them? And when I do these things, if I do them, do I believe that in so doing I save the people?

Am I like Pilate, in that when I see that the situation is difficult, I wash my hands of it and do not assume my responsibility and condemn people, or allow them to be condemned? Am I like that crowd that does not know if it is in a religious meeting, a court of judgement or a circus, and chooses Barabas? For them it was all the same: it was more entertaining to humiliate Jesus.

Am I like the soldiers who strike the Lord, who spit on Him, insult Him, who amuse themselves by humiliating the Lord? Am I like the Cyrenian who returned from work, weary, but who had the good will to help the Lord carry the cross? Am I like those who passed before the Cross and made fun of Jesus: 'He was so brave! If he comes down from the Cross we will believe in Him!' Making fun of Jesus?

Am I like those brave women, such as the Mother of Jesus, who were there, who suffered in silence? Am I like Joseph, the secret disciple who carried the copy of Jesus with love, to bury him? Am I like the two Marys, who remained before His tomb crying and praying?

Am I like the leaders who, the following day went to Pilate to say, 'Look, this man said that he would be resurrected. Careful that this is not another trick', and blocked the life, blocked the tomb to defend doctrine, so that life does not come out?

Where is my heart? Which of these people do I resemble? May this question accompany us throughout the week.

To the Parish Family, Friends, Relatives, and Visitors to Holy Ghost: Christ IS Risen! Christos Voskres! Christos Anesti! Christos A Inviat! Christos Amafufuka! Nearly two thousand years ago, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ arose from the dead...proclaiming His victory over death and opening the gates of the Kingdom of Heaven. We celebrate this Feast of Feasts as a living and contemporary event—Christ IS Risen today as He was on that first Pascha—

the Passover from mortality to eternal life in His Paradise. Adam and Eve lost paradise because they did not obey God's command—eating the apple was the physical manifestation of that disobedience. They were raised with the saints at Christ's command—restoring the human race to the favored status it once lost. As we greet each other today, and for the next forty days, let us remember that we have gained the opportunity for a return to Paradise in His company by the willing sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May His Resurrection bring the True and Eternal Light into your lives! In His Love, the Holy Ghost Parish Family, Parish Board, Sisterhood, Pani Gina, Alexander, Matthew, Stancy, and Father Bob