



EPARCHY
OF ST. MARON
CANADA

***Twenty second Letter of His Excellency
Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet
To the Maronite Community of Canada
Easter 2024***

*To all Monsignors, Priests and Brothers, Nuns and Sisters, Deacons,
To the people consecrated and committed to the life of the Church and Society,
To all the Parents, Children, Young Men and Young Women,
To all the Parish Communities,
Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

***“Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look. I am alive!”
(Revelation 1:17-18)***

The joy of Christ's Resurrection is so powerful. The shadow of sadness dissipates. With a voice overflowing with joy we sing:

Today victory is achieved!

Today, with his tenderness, he bequeaths us baptism!

Today he adorns his Church with the crown of glory!

Throughout his life, Jesus has fought against any form of death that threatens or destroys human life. He shared our suffering: hungry with the hungry, wounded with the sick, the oppressed and the marginalized; crucified so that the tragedy of the world, its bloody wars, and death itself, serve as a steppingstone for Resurrection and the triumph of divine life. He then invites his disciples to follow his path. The secret of Jesus’ sacrifice for the lives of others originates from his relationship with the Father, source of life (John 17:21). One can give up his own life for the sake of others only if the very life of God is rooted in him. Communicating the life of the Father to everyone is a crucial mission for Jesus to accomplish.

And the question to which we need to answer is: what does celebrating the Resurrection mean to us today?

- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord is, for us, celebrating the journey undertaken, out of love, by the Son of God who became our brother and Savior. What should we then be afraid of? He is “*with us always until the end of time*” (Matthew 28:20).
- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord is, for us, walking out of the darkness, overcoming fear and despair, and taking on the strength and courage to bear witness to God.
- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord is, for us, rediscovering and reaffirming the truth of living as sons and daughters of God, source of all things and Light of every man and woman.

- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord is, for us, renewing our awareness of the Holy Spirit whose actions are guided by God.
- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord is, for us, accepting the mission of becoming “bearers of life”, especially for all the “wounded by life on the roads of humankind”. *“As the Father has sent me, I too send you. And He breathed on them saying: “receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20: 21-22).*
- Celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord means, for us, becoming “missionaries of hope”, resurrected men and women who give life to all those who are tired and disillusioned with life, in the name of the resurrected Christ.

May Jesus Christ, the Living One, make us truly alive, make us people who truly live in Him and proclaim this life to others and to the world with determination and joy. Let us become, by the strength that Jesus supplies, fearless “fighters of life” despite the darkness, cruelty and hatred that threatens to take over lives and hearts in many places around the world. In the middle of all this, there’s an “Empty Tomb”, from which the Christ rose, eternally. No matter the darkness in the tomb, or in our hearts, he proclaims the message of hope: *“Take courage, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

Brothers and sisters, let us rejoice and seize this spirit of Christian hope to reflect it in our Church and society. Let us be witnesses following the example of the disciples after Pentecost. Let us embrace the power of the Holy Spirit, so that we shine in a cope of glory to meet the glorified Christ.

Christ is Risen...! He is truly Risen!

+ Paul-Marwan TABET
Bishop

