

Dear Friends,

"Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!" In ancient times, Christians exchanged this greeting at Easter. As I remember in my home town in Poland some 30+ years ago, the same greeting was exchanged between those who came to Mass on Easter morning. After awhile, it becomes an uplifting interruption, as if to say, "Just in case you forgot - God won!" and the response, "and He won by a mile!"

Today, we may want to ask ourselves a question: "What is the meaning of Easter for me?" For me personally, my friends, Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when I may not notice. I think we can all agree that life is busy and filled with worry. We get preoccupied with the details of the day and we worry about the evil that exists in the world. Hardly a day goes by where we don't hear about people with debilitating illness or lives destroyed by addiction, abuse or hatred. It can cause us to wonder: "Where is God and if He won, why doesn't it seem that way sometimes?"

God understands this and He gave us His only son to give us hope. May we take comfort in the reminder that Easter brings: Evil has been defeated through Christ's death and resurrection. We must never forget that God is the one who OVERCAME death and it is HE, in the person of Jesus Christ, who walks with us, never leaving our side either in times of joy or in sorrow. Our challenge at Easter is to notice His presence and make Him the foundation of our lives in all we do and say.

I would like to wish you and your family a joy and hope-filled Easter. May Jesus, who overcame death and conquered every fear, help us to live each day knowing that He is alive and His power is real!

Have a blessed Easter, my friends.

In Christ's peace,

Father Jacek