

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Today is a day to Rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. It is a joyful time for Christians. We know that Jesus endured the sadness and suffering of Holy Thursday night and Good Friday. We know that His lifeless body was placed in the tomb and it seemed that His story had come to an end. Yet we also believe that Jesus rose from the dead with a new divine life that will never end and He promises that same life to those who believe in Him and follow in His ways. He asks us to carry our crosses in this life but He promised He would help us carry our crosses and that the journey will lead us to heaven.

Like many millions of Christians, we come together in church today to give thanks and praise to God for His saving love. As Catholics, we believe that we celebrate the same sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross and left to us in the sacrament of the Eucharist the night before He died. This sacrament takes its power from the death and resurrection of Jesus and gives us the grace to live according to His word. The Eucharist is Jesus' gift of Himself to us!

None of us is fully worthy of the gift that Jesus offers to us each time we gather. Even those of us who participate in this sacrament every day have to remember our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. For those of us who are here once a twice a year, let that same need for God's grace touch your heart and soul. Redemption from sin is a complete gift from God no matter who we are. It is not because of our own merits but because of God's love that we are saved.

Today would be a wonderful time for each of us to renew our faith and joyfully resolve to follow Jesus with our whole being. Once we truly experience God's love even for a moment, we will never want to be apart from Him. If we recognize God's presence in the sacraments of His Church, we will want to welcome His grace always. Jesus lives forever and He calls us together as His Church. May His love bring us together often!

The Lord is truly risen! He is with us! Blessed Easter everyone! Live in His love!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*