FATHER GARY PENNINGS

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Happy Easter! He is risen!

The whole Church rejoices as we celebrate the most hope-filled truth of our Christian faith. God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son to save us from the eternal consequence of sin. Jesus, through His saving sacrifice on the Cross, has reconciled humanity to God. In rising from the dead, Jesus became the principle and source of our own future resurrection. Through the Easter miracle we are confident that, not only our souls can be saved, but our bodies too can have eternal life in the resurrection of the dead.

At the Easter Vigil, we heard these words proclaimed:

> *Our birth would have been no gain,*
> *had we not been redeemed.*
> *O wonder of your humble care for us!*
> *O love, O charity beyond all telling,*
> *to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!*
> *O truly necessary sin of Adam,*
> *destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!*
> *O happy fault that earned so great,*
> *so glorious a Redeemer!*

Easter, and the holy days that preceded it should reassure each of us of the blessing we have in Christ Jesus. How precious we are in God's eyes. "While we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). Without Jesus' saving death and resurrection, life has no real meaning. What hope would we have of anything beyond the grave was it not for God's love revealed in Jesus Christ, the One who overcame death by rising from the grave? I encourage each of you to pray for the graces to live as children of the Resurrection. Easter reaffirms the price that God was willing to pay for our salvation - "To ransom a slave [that's us], God gave away his Son." Awareness of this truth should empower us to live with great joy and hope. Happy Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life,