

FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Christ is Risen! My wish for all of you is that His Resurrection may fill any dark corners of your life, take you out of that darkness and with Him into Risen Life. Happy Easter to all!

Today, and for the next 8 days, the Church celebrates the Octave of Easter, which essentially means that the celebration of Jesus' Resurrection from the dead goes on for 8 straight days! Here are some quotes to help us enter more deeply into the miracle of Easter.

"Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered."

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Benedictus*, 128

"O Death, where is your sting?

O Hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown.

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen.

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.

Christ is risen, and life reigns.

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

For Christ, being risen from the dead,

is become the first fruits

of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages."

-St. John Chrysostom, Easter Homily

The Resurrection of Christ means that you and I can become a saint. Absolutely no one and nothing can stop us. It is our free choice. Here is one of the truest and most terrifying sentences I have ever read, "If you will look into your own heart in complete honesty, you must admit that there is one and only one reason why you are not a saint: you do not wholly want to be." That insight is terrifying because it is an indictment. But it is also awesomely optimistic because it is an offer, an open door.

Each of us can become a saint. We really can. What holds us back? Fear of paying the price. What is the price? The answer is simple. T.S. Eliot defines the Christian life as: "A condition of complete simplicity (costing not less than everything)." The price is everything: 100%. The martyrdom of dying daily, dying to all our desires and plans, ***including our plans about how to become a saint.*** A blank check to God. Complete submission. Mary's fiat: "May it be done to me according to your word." Look what that simple statement did 2000 years ago: It brought God down from Heaven and saved the world. It was meant to continue. If we make our own fiat, and only if we do that, then all our apostolates will 'work': our missioning and catechizing and fathering and mothering and teaching and studying and nursing and businessing and priesting - everything. A bishop asked one of the priests of his diocese for recommendations on ways to increase vocations. The priest replied: "The best way to attract men in this diocese to the priesthood, Your Excellency, would be your canonization."

He is Risen!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.