



**COPTIC ORTHODOX
PATRIARCHATE**



**DIOCESE OF MISSISSAUGA,
Vancouver and Western Canada**



In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God. Amen

Festal Letter for the Glorious Feast of Resurrection

May 2, 2021

**Khristos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

Dear Beloved Congregation of the Diocese of Mississauga, Vancouver, and Wester Canada,

I would like to congratulate all my dear Fathers, Board of Deacons and all Servants for the Glorious Feast of the Resurrection!

On your behalf, allow me to congratulate H. H. Pope Tawadros II, all their Eminences the Metropolitans, and their Graces the Bishops, for the Resurrection Feast.

A Blessed Glorious Feast of the Resurrection to all!

This is the second consecutive Feast of the Resurrection in which we have not been allowed to attend Church because of the pandemic restrictions.

The Feast without you, my beloved, is not as joyful!

We truly miss praying all together! It is heartbreaking to pray the Holy Week and the Resurrection Feast without you!

We are praying and asking God to end the pandemic, to heal all those who are sick, and grant comfort and condolences to all families who lost loved ones.

Dear beloved, the Church teaches us that the Feast of Resurrection is the most important Church celebration and it surpasses all other feasts. As St. Paul the Apostle writes, "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty" (1 Corinthians 15:4).

Without the Resurrection of our Lord, there would be no meaning to Christianity.

What did the Resurrection offer humanity?

What has changed in our lives as a result of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ?

1. The first blessing is that nothing is impossible

Mary and Martha felt hopeless after the death of their brother Lazarus, who had been in the tomb for four days and who began to rot. However, our Lord raised Lazarus from the dead. Indeed, Lazarus experienced death again, but, in His Resurrection, our Lord defeated death by death with His eternal Life after which there is no more death.

Of the power of our Lord's Resurrection, St. Paul the Apostle exclaimed saying, "O Death, where is your sting?" (1 Corinthians 15:55) Resurrection gave us a mighty power as death was destroyed before us.

Everything is possible to the believer. That is the power of the Resurrection, which will help you overcome any struggles. As for you, the Lord will help you experience how faith challenges the impossibilities that face you.



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2. The second blessing is the longing for eternal life

Love of eternal life makes us long for something larger than this earthly life, superior to matter, and deeper than any desire. Saints considered earth an alien world. They considered their lives as though in transit heading towards the Heavenly abode. The place from which sadness, depression, and groaning have disappeared. The place where there is no sin, hatred, and conflict among people, but rather love, joy and peace.

3. The third blessing is that of the joys of Resurrection

Resurrection turned our sorrow into joy and made our lives joyful in the Lord. Many are the pleasures of life, but the joys of Resurrection are of a different kind.

St. John the Beloved writes, "Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20).

Be assured my beloved that if the Lord allows you to carry the Cross with Him, then the day will come when you will enjoy the joy of Resurrection with Him here on earth and in Heaven.

How joyful it is to be in the presence of the Lord as it is written, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

It is beautiful, my beloved, that we rejoice in the Risen Christ! The Victorious over death, and Who by His Resurrection gave us victory over Satan, and Resurrection from death caused by sin.

Accordingly, our beloved teacher St. John writes, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled" (1 John 1:1).

It is such a great joy when we feel that we are in the presence of the Lord; therefore, it is most appropriate not to allow the worries of the world to occupy our minds when we are in His presence.

In the Church, the House of God, we bow down in reverence, we pray in reverence, and we stand up with faith and respect due to the House of God.

Blessed is the one who enjoys being in the presence of the Lord. Do not begin your day nor end it before you enjoy your presence with God in your morning and evening prayers.

May the blessings of Resurrection fill your lives!

Wishing you a glorious Feast of the Resurrection!

Bishop Mina

Bishop Mina,
Bishop of the Diocese of
Mississauga, Vancouver and Western Canada