

## CHRISTIANS DO NOT LOSE THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

*John 20,1-9*

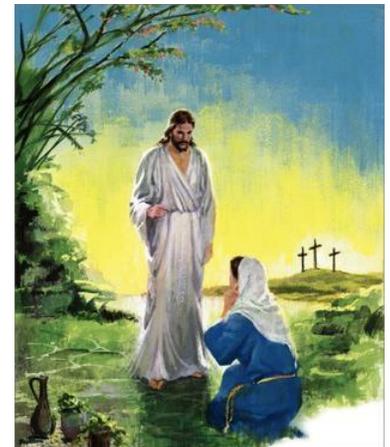
Brothers and sisters:  
We have already heard the good news. Rather, the **best** news: "Christ is alive! He is risen and has appeared to his disciples."

### HAPPY EASTER TO ALL!

The sadness that invaded our hearts due to the passion and death of Christ gives way to the uncontrollable joy caused by his resurrection.

1. It is not easy to believe in the resurrection of Jesus. The disciples had to experience the dark night of the soul after Good Friday. Along with the trauma of Jesus' violent death, they had to suffer the silence of many unknowns. 'And now what's gonna happen?' We will understand their anguish if we compare it with how we feel when we wait for someone who has not yet arrived. They announce that Mom is on a trip, but she doesn't come when we expect her. What might have happened? My soul shrinks, my imagination paints terrible pictures. Thus were the disciples with a lump in their throats.

Jesus appears, risen, to Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas; precisely to them because they doubted. They were more dead than alive. And to the disciples of Emmaus because they had already lost hope. His appearance brings to everyone new reasons to live.



2. The resurrection of Christ changed the world. Death was overcome when Christ accepted death; pain was overcome when Christ freely accepted his suffering; sin was destroyed when Christ carried it on his shoulders. All this is true even though death, suffering and sin continue to accompany us. But they are no longer insurmountable.

We must be men of hope. We cannot walk the world prophesying calamities. We must persevere in an unbeatable optimism, understanding the realities of love and death, but full of good humor. There is a new beatitude destined for us: "Blessed are those who believed without seeing."

3. Every Sunday is a little Easter in the Eucharist. It is as if it were the day that I can cash at the 'mercy bank' that check for life, for joy, for forgiveness that Christ gave me two thousand years ago, the day of his resurrection. It does not come made payable "to the bearer". It is in **my name** and nobody can charge me for it.

Tomorrow may be too late. It is an invitation for us to live "as resurrected" today!

Saint Paul invites us to "seek the goods from above; not those of the earth."

Make a practical purpose: Spend some time reading the Gospel account of everything that happened after the resurrection. It will fill you with joy and peace. How much we need them after

hearing all the bad news we hear on the radio or on TV about viruses, catastrophes, deaths, abuses!



Let's look for the good news that is a sign of God's presence. Let us be men and women of hope!

Father Roberto Mena, ST