



March 2010

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a couple of weeks away. Each year we mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.

### ***Resurrection in Christ Jesus***

Fr. Ron Rolheiser reminds us that "the Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality." In his article, "Resurrection Power," he has this to say about Easter:

*The Resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago and will happen to each of us some time in the future after we die when our own bodies will be raised to new life. It is that, but much more.*

*The Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality. God is always making new life and undergirding it with a goodness, graciousness, mercy and love that, in the end, heals all wounds, forgives all sins and brings deadness of all kinds to new life.*

*We fee this resurrecting power in the most ordinary moments of our lives. A sense of the Resurrection, understood in its deepest sense, manifests itself unconsciously in our vitality, in what we call health; the feeling, however dimly it is sensed, that it is good to be alive. The very atomic structure of the cosmos feels and knows that resurrecting power. That is why it (like us, when we are healthy) pushes forward blindly, buoyed up by a hope that it cannot understand.*

*A friend of mine once sent me an Easter card that ended with the challenge: "May you leave behind you a string of empty tombs!" That is both my Easter wish and my Easter challenge for all of us. Let our wounded, muted voices begin to sing again: "Christ is risen! Life is very, very good! Happy Easter!"*

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Liguori Press

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world and recovery from the effects of the earthquakes to the people of Haiti and Chile.

### ***Holy Week at the Cathedral***

As always, the Cathedral will mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and musical events, described below and in the Lenten brochure that I sent you last month.

First, note that several priests will be available for Confessions in the Cathedral from 11:00 a.m. until Noon on Monday of Holy Week, March 29, through Holy Saturday, April 3. The exception to that schedule is ***Tuesday of Holy Week***, March 30, which is the date of our Lenten Communal Penance Service at 12:10 p.m., *Come Home for Easter*. I will preside and preach, and after the brief service twenty priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for Confessions in English, Spanish, Italian, French, Dutch, German, Chinese and American Sign. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

Of special note during Holy Week is the annual Chrism Mass. Each year at this Mass, the priests of the Archdiocese renew their ordination promises and the Archbishop blesses the three sacred oils that will be used to anoint the sick and dying, as well as those being baptized, confirmed or ordained. The Mass will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. on ***Monday of Holy Week***, March 29. I encourage you to attend and pray for your

priests in this Year for Priests. Our annual Tenebræ service will be held **Wednesday of Holy Week**, March 31, at 7:30 p.m. On **Holy Thursday** we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice, at 12:10 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. Archbishop Wuerl will preside at the evening service, which will include the washing of the feet. As usual, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held that night until 10:00 p.m. On **Good Friday**, Very Rev. Frederick J. Tillotson, O. Carm., President of Washington Theological Union, will deliver some Reflections on the Lord's Passion at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 p.m. with Archbishop Wuerl. Bishop González will preside at the Spanish Liturgy of the Passion at 4:00 p.m. We will end the night with Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on **Holy Saturday**, April 3, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 22 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community. Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Again, please refer to the brochure I sent you before Lent which contains the complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week. If you have misplaced your copy, you can still pick one up in the Cathedral or view it on our website at [www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org). I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make it. On that note, don't forget about the Rachmaninoff Vespers on Thursday, **March 18**, at 7:30 p.m. (a limited number of seats available beginning when doors open at 7:00 p.m.) and the Lenten Organ Recital on Friday, **March 19**, at 7:00 p.m., both in the Cathedral; the Lenten lectures on Wednesday, **March 17 & 24**, at 12:10 p.m. in the North Conference Room, on Thursday, **March 18**, in the Great Hall and on Thursday, **March 25**, at 7:00 p.m. in the North Conference Room; and the Simple Lenten Meals in the North Conference Room immediately following the 6:00 p.m. Friday evening Stations of the Cross.

#### ***Vatican International Exhibit of Eucharistic Miracles***

During these final weeks of Lent, consider visiting one of the Lenten exhibits on Eucharistic Miracles. As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The consecrated host and wine are the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, Our Lord. Throughout history, God has given us many miracles authenticated by the Church to help our understanding and faith in the face of this mystery. Beautifully detailed posters depicting in art the stories of these miracles are on exhibit at the following churches: Our Lady of Victory, 4835 MacArthur Blvd., NW (parking in church lot on U Street); St. Peter's, Capitol Hill, 313 Second Street, SE (Second & C Streets; Capitol South Metro); and Immaculate Conception, 1315 8th Street, NW (8th & N Streets; parking in church lot at 8th and O Streets; Mt. Vernon Square Metro). The exhibits are on continuous display, including on Wednesday evenings of Lent during Confessions and Adoration (6:30-8:00 p.m. at OLV and 6:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's and Immaculate Conception).

#### ***Easter Offering***

Enclosed with this letter is our Easter Offering envelope, as well as the Easter Flower envelope that should have been in my last letter. We need your help. Recently we repaired a rosette above the altar and reconfigured the mechanism that lowers the light beam in the sanctuary. Cost? \$50,000! I thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Cathedral, which makes possible all that we do here.

#### ***Thank You! Muchas Gracias!***

I also thank those who contributed so generously to the Archbishop's Appeal last year, and those who already have made their gift for this year. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to consider a gift to the 2010 Archbishop's Appeal. This Appeal provides for the day-to-day needs of the least of our brothers and sisters. It also helps our seminarians and retired priests in the areas of retirement funding and long-term care. Please do what you can. They really need your help now.

Finally, Happy Easter! May this season bring you much joy, love and peace. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V.F.  
Rector