



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

April 8, 2022

On Easter Sunday morning you will hear these words proclaimed in the Gospel: “Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ and she told them that He has said these things to her.”

Initially, Mary did not recognize Jesus. She thought that He was the gardener. It was only after He spoke her name that she realized that this was her Lord and that He had risen from the dead. Overcome with joy, she had to share this good news with others.

Today we see so many things that disturb our peace. We continue to deal with a pandemic, a war in Ukraine, and senseless acts of violence throughout the world. Locally, we face economic uncertainty, homelessness, increased addictions, moral confusion and division. This is causing increased fear and anxiety. What we experience on a daily basis seems to rob us of our joy.

This is why the words of Mary Magdalene are so significant. Her sorrow was transformed to joy when she was able to behold Jesus Christ who had risen from the dead. She took great comfort in the fact that the one she loved was still alive. We need to do the same.

There are still so many wonderful things happening in our world and community where we can see the Risen Lord. There are countless individuals who are responding courageously and generously to the many challenges that we face. These are the individuals who inspire hope and joy in our hearts because in them we see the Lord. As St. Paul reminds us, we are all members of the body of Christ (1Corinthians 12:27). As parts of His body, we each have a unique role to make Christ present in the world.

The most perfect way that we see the Risen Lord is at the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We hear His gentle voice in Sacred Scripture and receive His Body and Blood in the Blessed Sacrament. Like Mary Magdalene, we gather in praise and adoration so that we can be strengthened and then sent forth to announce the Good News.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, rather than only looking at the problems of life, let us look to Jesus and proclaim, “I have seen the Lord!” This is the message that our world needs to hear.

May the Risen Christ grant you a joyous and grace-filled Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines