

## *Easter 2017*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS TRULY RISEN!**

These words form the bedrock of our Christian belief. Alone among world religions Christianity offers the audacious teaching that God loved us so much that he took on human flesh then went and died for our sake a death that was the ultimate victory. Christ, in vanquishing death, opened up a way to heaven for us through hope of this same resurrection. Forever, then, let his church proclaim: *Christ is risen from the dead!*

Some question this fact, claiming that the Apostles just made up the whole idea of the resurrection to cover up the failed Jesus. However, I want to claim today that the Apostles are one of the greatest proofs that the resurrection is real. True, they were not paragons of courage. When the night of Christ's arrest came they all fled. One betrayed him. Another denied him. Indeed the only one who had the courage to stand at the foot of the cross was St. John, and I suspect that this was because he was standing next to the Blessed Mother – men can suddenly become more courageous when they see a woman watching. Yet, despite their cowardliness, we see these same men, including St. Jude, all going to their deaths in heroic martyrdom. People, especially cowardly men, do not go to their deaths for a fable. However, because these men saw the Risen Lord, they were able boldly to confront any danger.

And what of ourselves? How as a practical matter do we confront the dangers, anxieties and fears that beset us on every side in a world that daily tests our courage? We come to the St. Jude Shrine, where the glory of God shines forth amid the outpouring of prayers, worries, fears, and anxieties that devotees bring to lay before the Risen Lord. Here they are supported by an intercessor, St. Jude, who also knew anxiety, worry and fear, especially that first Holy Thursday night when he fled along with his frightened brothers.

Pour forth, then, all your fears and anxieties. Lay them at the feet of the Lord and let them be changed into glory. Put them into our Easter novena, and we will present them to our loving God during these nine days of prayer as we journey together to heaven.

Sincerely,

Fr. James Junípero Moore, O.P.  
Director

