



Easter 2015 ~ Despite all, Faith is our Light

Recalling the messianic entrance of Christ into Jerusalem with the blessing of the palms marks the beginning of Holy Week, or the “Great Week” as it was once called in Church history. Indeed, we remember this week, the heart of the mystery of our salvation in Christ. The events we will celebrate reveal the profound meaning of the life of Jesus, as in ours, *since by dying, He destroyed our death and by rising, He restored our life.*

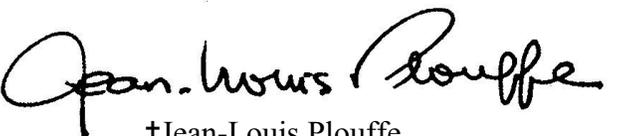
In light of the passage from death to life of the Paschal Triduum, the opening words of the declaration of the Second Vatican Council on *The Church in the modern world* take on a deeper meaning, giving our lives and solidarities their full dimension: *The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ. Indeed, nothing genuinely human fails to raise an echo in their hearts.* Despite war and all kinds of violence, despite our fear of terrorism, despite the religious persecutions, despite the uncertainty of our economy, despite the failures in our efforts for reconciliation and peace, despite the personal challenges we face, despite our weaknesses and wavering faith, Easter gives us a new outlook on life, with newfound confidence in the hearts of people who believe, despite everything! Despite all, faith is our light.

Strangely, light is often more appreciated in darkness and during hardships. If the suffering and death of Good Friday leads to the new life of Easter, the more difficult times in which we live can become a time for deepening our faith and a time of grace to rediscover the Lord present in our lives. In these more somber moments, our desire to see Him is that much stronger. In reality, when thinking about it, is not “seeing God” the most important thing in life, regardless of age? This is a question that I often get asked by children: “Have you ever seen God?” The answer is not so simple. It is the challenge of faith. On Easter morning, even those closest to Christ did not recognize Him at first glance. Two of His disciples on the way to the village of Emmaus only recognized Him by listening to Him make sense of what was happening as he explained the Scriptures and at the moment of the Breaking of the Bread.

May this Easter 2015 give us the grace to welcome wanted and unwanted events in our lives in the light of faith in the Risen One. Let us take time to listen to His word, to reflect upon it in silent prayer, and to make memory of the Passover of Christ by sharing the Bread and the Cup of our Eucharists with those who believe in Him. May the living God purify our outlook to see His face through our close ones and especially those less fortunate.

Blessings for a faithfilled Easter!

March 29, 2015,
Palm Sunday
Bishop’s Office

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