



MESSAGE
on the occasion of the Holy Resurrection of Christ Our Savior

“O My Jesus, Who Pourest Forth Life”
The Resurrection: the Feast of Life

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

During these holy days, the blessed hymnography of our Church has yet again initiated us, with ineffable theological profundity and in a sublimely lyrical manner, into the Mystery of the Resurrection and of Life.



Death and life: Jesus, though dead, is at the same time the Source of Life. We see constant references to the “Dispenser of Life,” Who is, nonetheless, “seen as one dead.” “Jesus, the Outpurer of Life,” by His life-giving death, gives back life and immortality to Adam and Eve.

The Holy Disciple Joseph asks: “How shall I bury Thee, O my God? With what hands shall I touch Thy pure Body? How shall I place Thee in a tomb, Thou ‘Who grantest life eternal and great mercy unto all?’”

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My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

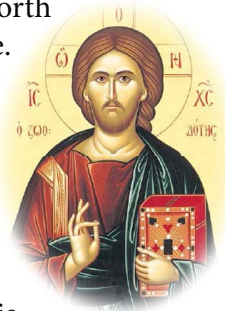
This dialectic of death and life, which is centered with particular intensity on the Person of Christ our Savior, is not encountered only in the Orthodox worship of Great Week.

All of our life, our life in Christ, is a constant and agonizing effort to overcome within us the death of sin and the passions, to the end that the life and light of Christ's Resurrection might prevail.

We have been given life, because Christ pours forth life. He is the Giver of life and the Wellspring of life. But His Holy Church, too, is an unfailing Life-Giving Spring.

Through His Incarnation, our Lord assumed our life. Thus, He has endowed it with unfathomable depth and value. Our life has become His Life. Our life has become the Life of God. And it is this life that He offered as a sacrifice for our salvation. Through this sacrifice our life has been deified, Christified, and sanctified.

Our life is no longer simply a biological life. It is a life with eternal dimensions; it is a life, the heart of which is the Life-giving Grace of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



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My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

How is it possible, therefore, for us not to revere this Life? How can a Christian permit the death of sin and the passions to dominate his existence? How can we forget the inestimable gift of this Life in the person of our brother? How can we disdain other human beings? How can we be indifferent toward the dignity of our fellow men? Life, our renewed Life in Christ, is the gift of God, which it behooves us to offer in return to God, out of love and with love, by way our brothers and sisters—“Thine own of Thine own do we offer unto Thee.”

When we make a gift of our life, then are we truly alive. Then it is

that our existence becomes fully open to God; then it is that we become bearers of life and offer a witness to life.

As Christians, we have a tremendous responsibility before the world, before a culture of death. Our Church, of which we are all members, is the most immense, the most powerful, and the most dynamic movement for life in opposition to death in its many forms, a death which appears to be engulfing man, the whole world, and creation itself.

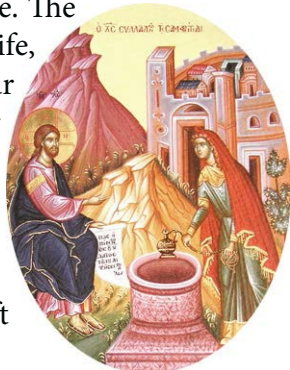
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My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On this day we are given, once again, a great opportunity to become aware of the grand and Divine Gift of Life. The Resurrection of our Savior is truly the Feast of Life, of the Life which we revere in our selves and in our brother—of the Life which we ought to sacrifice for the protection of life and of the dignity of others.

In this way there will come about a “superabundance” of life, which will rein in death, despair, the destruction of the image of God, and the defilement and desecration of the Divine Gift of Life.

May Christ, Who is the Resurrection and the Life, vouchsafe us to preserve inviolate the treasure of the Life that we have been given and to impart it to our brothers and sisters, always under the protection and guidance of the *Theotokos* and, as well, that of the prayers of our Elder of blessed memory, our Father and Metropolitan Cyprian.



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!
Holy Pascha, 2014

The humble supplicant of your prayers,

Ὁ Ὡραῖος καὶ Φυγῆς Κρυψανῆ

Metropolitan Cyprian of Oropos and Phyle,