

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



'HE IS RISEN'

My dear People,

Easter is the greatest feast in the Liturgical year. The Church proclaims the joyous news with these words: "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice therein."

We rejoice because He who has invited us to follow Him with the inevitable companions of our pilgrimage through life, suffering and death, has assured us of a final victory and a fullness of life where death shall be no more and all tears shall be dried.

The empty tomb of the first Easter morn has erased forever from the vocabulary of the Christian the expression of hopelessness: "I cannot be other than I am now. I am overwhelmed by the darkness of life and the daily defeats that accompany my best efforts."

Christ's victory is our hope for better days, and a continued resurrection from our failures. The only tomb which can ever confine us is the one we will to seal by our own self-pity and lack of faith.

Easter's joyous news is our challenge to bear witness to the Resurrection. There is no other convincing proof of its glorious reality. St. Augustine expressed it well: "A Christian is an Alleluia from head to toe."

May all of us experience the joy of this day which the Risen Christ has made! Happy Easter!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

+ Joseph L. Hagan