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The Good News of Easter!

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My dear People:

The incredible thing about the recent earthquake in Romania is not the death and destruction that it caused, staggering though that is. Rather, the incredible event is that two people, buried for so many days under the rubble, were found to be alive. The world was jubilant that life, which

In photo above, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan uses the Easter Lily and other flowers to explain to a group of children the relationship of the re-emergence of Spring, the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the rebirth of all God's people. The photo was taken by Susan McKinney of the Courier-Journal at the Highland Park Conservatory, courtesy of Richard Fenicchia, superintendent of horticulture.

seemed so fragile in the face of such destruction, could be so victorious.

This is the good news of Easter! The Life, which seemed so fragile in the face of his enemies, has risen triumphant from the grave, the Conqueror of all that would overpower us. Christ has died, but Christ is risen!

The Easter good news is hopeful good news — and it comes not a moment too soon! We have endured the hard winter, wrapped in its frigid, discouraging blanket of struggles, uncertainty and sadness. Its bitter blast all but overwhelmed us. But all creation announces that the winter of death will not overcome us. The first warm breezes, the budding trees, the early Spring flowers break gently upon us now and say that the love of God prevails, the hope of the people is not in vain. Christ has died, but Christ is risen!

This Easter good news is sufficient for us: it is all we need to hear. As Saint Paul writes: "I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection." (Phil 3:10) We have been touched with the power of Christ's resurrection and we

share the benefits of his life. Into the dark and uncertain corners of our lives spills the light of this most magnificent event. On the verge of being overwhelmed by the disasters that face us, we are filled with the undefeated power of God's love! Alleluia!

May this truth of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ fill your life this Easter Day and always!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Joseph L. Hogan

+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D. D.
Bishop of Rochester