

THE POPE

The Church Must Be Witness to The Resurrection

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the English-language text distributed by the Vatican of Pope John Paul II's Easter 1983 "Urbi Et Orbi" message to the City and the world, delivered in Italian April 3 from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." (LK. 24: 5-6)



The women who have come to seek the crucified Christ — the dead among the dead — hear these words.

They do not understand them:

But the tomb is empty.

From the early morning hours of the day after the Sabbath, the announcement of the empty tomb spreads.

In this announcement there develops the first Easter message.

"You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here." (MK. 16:6)

"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly." (PS. 118 (117):16) To that place "where they laid Him" (MK. 16:6) the centuries go on pilgrimage.

The generations pause before the empty tomb, just as once the first witnesses stopped there.

This year, more than ever, let us go on pilgrimage to the tomb of Christ.

Let us return to the very first words uttered by the holy women, the words in which there developed the Easter message.

This year, more than ever, the Church wishes to be the witness to the Resurrection, for it is the Holy Year of the Redemption, the special jubilee.

Redemption comes from the cross and is fulfilled in the Resurrection.

"The lamb has redeemed the sheep. The innocent Christ has reconciled sinners to the Father."

Behold, man has been snatched from death and restored to life. Behold, man is snatched from sin and restored to love. All of you, everywhere, who enter the darkness of death, listen: Christ is risen. All of you who live under the burden of sins, listen: Christ has conquered sin by His cross and

resurrection. Submit yourselves to his power. World of today: Submit yourself to his power.

The more you find in yourself the old structure of sin, the more you notice the horror of death on the horizon of your history; submit yourself all the more fully to his power.

O Christ, who on your cross accepted our human world, old world of sin — make it exist anew in your resurrection; make it become new through every human heart visited by the power of the redemption.

O Risen Christ, in your glorious wounds accept all the throbbing wounds of the men and women of today: the wounds which are so much talked about in the media; and also those wounds whose pain is silently endured in the hidden secret of human hearts. Let them be relieved in the mystery of the Redemption. Let them be close and healed through love, which is stronger than death.

In this mystery:

- We are with you who suffer from misery and hunger, sometimes assisting at the agony of children who are calling out for bread;

- We are with you, the millions of refugees, ejected from your homes, exiles from your native lands;

- We are with you, all the victims of terror, locked up in prisons or concentration camps, consumed by ill-treatment or by torture;

- We are with you who have been kidnapped;

- We are with you who live in the nightmare of daily threats of violence or civil war;

- We are with you who suffer due to unexpected calamity, such as in these days the people of ancient city of Popayan, which has been seriously damaged by earthquake;

- We are with you, families who pay for your faith in Christ by suffering discrimination, including that which effects the studies or careers of your children;

- We are with you, young people who are discouraged at not finding work, a home or the social dignity to which you aspire;

- We are with you who suffer because of sickness, age or loneliness;

- We are with you who, confused by anxiety or doubt, are

seeking enlightenment for your minds and peace for your hearts:

- We are with you who, feeling the weight of sin, are seeking the grace of Christ the Redeemer.

But also in this mystery of the Resurrection:

- We are with you who, during these days, have made new resolutions for Christian living, throwing yourselves into the merciful arms of Christ;

- We are with you, converts and newly baptized, who have discovered the invitation of the gospel;

- We are with you who are trying to overcome the barriers of mistrust with acts of goodness and reconciliation within families and society;

- We are with you, men and women of work and culture who want to be the gospel leaven in the place where your work;

- We are with you, religious consecrated to Christ, and especially with you who expend yourselves, above all in mission lands, in order to bring to your brothers and sisters the good news of humanity redeemed by Christ;

- We are with you, martyrs of the faith of Christ, who in the midst of often hidden or unknown oppression enrich the Church by silent prayer, by patient endurance and by asking for the pardon and conversion of those who persecute you;

- We are with you, people of good will of every race and continent, who in any way whatever perceive the attracting influence of Christ and his teaching.

We are with all the suffering wounds of humanity today, and we are with all the expectations, hopes and joys of our brothers and sisters to which the risen Christ gives meaning and value.

The Church shares today the Easter message with all the brethren in Christ and with all the people of the world.

We are with you, particularly where the oppression of consciences does not permit you to pray together and to celebrate Easter.

May all accept the words of this message.

May the different languages speak and where they are deficient may the language of the Spirit be eloquent — the Spirit who directly visits souls and speaks in the depths of hearts.



Father Bruce Ritter

You won't like what you are going to read. Before you let your children read this article, make sure you feel it is appropriate for them to do so. What follows is a verbatim transcript of a

taped conversation one of my kids had with a really rotten pimp, known on the streets as Sweet Talk. I've changed the names and cleaned up his filthy language and edited the text only where necessary to clarify its meaning.

Every year, thousands of girls like Margie, and thousands of boys, run away from pimps like Sweet Talk, fleeing for their lives—and hundreds of these kids end up at our UNDER 21 center. If you ever wonder why our doors stay open 24 hours a day...why I will fire any staff member who turns a child away...and why I insist that our entrances be patrolled day and night, seven days a week by armed guards, this transcript will make it totally clear.

New York City Police Department, a Mid-Manhattan Precinct, today's date is 8-16-82 and the time is fourteen hundred hours. This investigation is being conducted under major case 04128 on complaint number 5847. The following is a recording of a telephone conversation between the complainant, Margaret Steward, and the subject, Jerome Thatcher a.k.a. Sweet Talk.

My name is Margaret Steward and I live at 874 W. 29th Street. I was born on April 6, 1965. The following is a telephone conversation being recorded by Police Officer O'Brien. This recording is being made with my knowledge and I hereby consent to such a recording.

Margie: "Yes, can I speak to room 190?"

Sweet Talk: "Hello?"

Margie: "Hello."

Sweet Talk: "Hey, Margie, what's happening? Where you at?"

Margie: "At the home." (our UNDER 21 center)

Sweet Talk: "Why'd you call?"

Margie: "Because."

Sweet Talk: "You had me thinking that you wanted to come back to me....I want to know why you called?"

Margie: "Cause I'm scared to come back."

Sweet Talk: "Why's that?"

Margie: "Because look at all the stuff that happened to me. You broke my cheek, and

SWEET TALK

screwed up my teeth...and you don't think I'm scared of you? If I come back, are you gonna send me to work? You know I'm sick. I just got out of the hospital...It's not worth it. I'm out here busting my tail for you and you just act like you don't care."

Sweet Talk: "You know I do, I don't know why you even say that."

Margie: "If you care, why are you always running up to me and grabbing me? And why are you always threatening my momma?"

Sweet Talk: "Hey, I'm gonna tell you, girl, you ain't seen nothing yet. I'm telling you, you done got me to the point, girl, where I feel like riding to your momma's and killing everybody in the house. Because I told you, next time you leave me you gonna pay, or somebody in your family's gonna pay. I take this too serious, girl. You understand what I'm saying! You went into the hospital. You came out, and now you just gotta go to work! Point blank! What more can I tell you? Now it's time for you to sell your tail."

Margie: "You're starting to make it one of those 'pimp/hooker' relationships. I mean you're starting to whip me and things like that. I mean, if you really cared about me, you wouldn't be sendin' me out in the streets to do that stuff."

Sweet Talk: "I just want you to get through your mind that this ain't no cat and mouse game, girl. You know I'm a pimp and I know you're a whore. You know what I'm saying. Hey, I'm thinking about coming to pick you up, OK?"

Margie: "I'm already in the building, they ain't gonna let me out."

Sweet Talk: "Damn it, if you wanted to come out of there, you'd come out of there! Now don't go handing me this crap across the phone! You hear me?"

Margie: "I can't leave now! Security's out there, and because..."

Sweet Talk: "Hell with security. Just tell them you're going home to your momma. What're they gonna do, tell you no you can't go?"

Margie: "No, they're gonna tell me to wait. And they're gonna call her 'cause, these people up here are scared to let me go outside."

Sweet Talk: "You don't want to be with me now?"

Margie: "I don't know, I gotta go."

I feel almost like washing my mouth out with soap. I decided to let Sweet Talk speak for himself. I mean this really happens every day to hundreds of kids all over the country. It's not a myth, a fantasy, or an episode of some late night TV drama. There are, this morning, a half dozen other girls in our centers who have also escaped from this incredible type of slavery.

Margie made this tape—that is, she cooperated with the police in order to get Sweet Talk arrested. Because the word on the street was very simple and very clear: Sweet Talk was going to kill her. He's in jail now, thanks to the Pimp Squad of the NYPD. I hope he stays there for a long time. It took a lot of courage to do what Margie did. I'm happy to say she's back home now, reconciled with forgiving and loving parents.

Because of you we are able to be here for Margie and the thousands of other kids—boys and girls, young men and young women—entrapped and enslaved in this vicious industry.

More than anything else I need your prayers for my kids, my casually heroic staff, and for myself. We also urgently need your continued financial help. I think you now know why we need both so desperately.

I guess, too, I should ask you to pray for Sweet Talk. I don't want to pray for him...but I'll try. We pray for you and your kids all the time.

I want to bring the hope of Easter Sunday to children who now know only the pain of Good Friday. Here is my gift of: \$_____ please print:

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COVENANT HOUSE
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Because the street is NO PLACE FOR A CHILD

Father Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House/UNDER 21, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway boys and girls