

**HOMILY OF HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL CHRISTOPHE PIERRE  
APOSTOLIC NUNCIO TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HOLY MASS OF THE EASTER VIGIL  
BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. – APRIL 19, 2025**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Easter!

On behalf of Pope Francis, thank you for your prayers, which have helped him to endure his sickness and to celebrate with us the Resurrection of Christ.

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In the Book of Genesis, we heard these words:

***“God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.”***

If only we could honor this truth always. If only we could allow the goodness of God’s creation, and the goodness of our fellow human beings, to be a principle guiding all of our decisions and actions.

War... Exploitation of our common home... Racism and every kind of exclusion... A culture of indifference toward people in need.... These evils, which are so much part of the world in which we live, would not occur if we were to look upon all that God created in the way that He himself looks upon it. If we had God’s heart, we would not be able to act in a way that would disfigure His *good* creation, nor destroy the lives of those whom He created in His own image.

And yet we do these things.

We mistreat God’s creation. We attack one another in our speech. We commit violence against the very ones whom Genesis says are made in the image of God. In the extreme expression of our rebellion against God’s goodness, we even killed His Son.

Tonight, into this darkness of our sin, a light returns which tells an amazing story: God has not turned away from us.

On the contrary, Jesus Christ has come back from the dead and has chosen, once again, to live among us.

Brothers and Sisters: This is always what God chooses. *He always chooses to live with us.*

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By the Incarnation, God chose to enter the very world in which man's sins had done violence to what He had made. He chose, in the person of Jesus, to be born among men and to live the drama that our rebellion had brought about.

Jesus chose, in fact, to be a *victim* of this drama: dying on the cross so that, by His Resurrection from the dead, He could eternally restore God's creation.

But on a very human level, it is amazing to consider *why* the Son of God rose from the dead. He did so for the same reason that He became human in the first place: *He wanted to be with us!*

Let's think about this. Jesus *wants to be with us!* He wants to be among us. He wants to be *friends* with us.

Looking at the dark side of our human condition, this desire of Jesus to be with us is almost shocking! And perhaps we *should* be shocked, so that we can wake up again to the *goodness* of humanity. It is so good, that Jesus "cannot get enough of us"—even after we have killed Him!

The Resurrection is not just an amazing miracle that happened once, on that first Easter Sunday. The Resurrection was the beginning of a new reality. It means that Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, is with us now, and will always be with us.

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Brothers and sisters, we will never escape this truth: When God looks upon all that He has made—all of His natural creation, and all of the women, men, and children who are made in His image—*he finds it very good*.

To be an “Easter people” means to be people who look upon creation and one another with the same mentality as God: To see that the world is good, and that every human person has a dignity that is “infinite”, because “human dignity transcends all outward appearances and specific aspects of people’s lives”.<sup>1</sup>

When we have that mentality, then we cannot carry out actions of violence and speak words of hatred and contempt. War is not possible for people who see, as God sees, how good His creation is. The only kind of action that makes sense, in this light, is the action of love. Of mercy. To reach out with kindness to the person who is in need.

This season of Easter, may we follow the example of Christ, who came back from death in order that He could live with His people and share with them the love of God.

Happy Easter!

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<sup>1</sup> Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Presentation of the Declaration *Dignitas Infinita* on Human Dignity, 2 April 2024.