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Easter Sunday 2017

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord,

This year's Easter gospel comes to us from Saint Matthew. He describes Easter morning. Women go to the tomb at dawn on the first day of the week. An angel appears and speaks to them: "*Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples.*"

In these words, we find the essential Easter message directed to each one of us today in our uncertain world and amid the painful burdens we carry: **do not be afraid, come and see, go and tell.**

Easter eases our fear when we come to know God's triumph in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter invites us to come and see with fresh eyes what God has done in conquering sin and death. Easter summons us to go and share our faith and hope with others.

When we hear this message and recognize Jesus Christ as the Risen Lord of life, how can we not praise and thank God? How can we not walk together with new confidence and hope? In a time when violence and death-dealing forces seem rampant in the world and even in our own neighborhoods, we truly need new confidence and hope. And when we listen to the Lord, as we have been trying to do in the Archdiocese of Chicago, to seek directions for the renewal of our local Church, we surely need new confidence and hope.

Pray with me that we may all truly hear the words—*do not be afraid, come and see, go and tell*—and so draw new life from them for our loved ones, our world, our city and metropolitan area, our Church, and our very selves.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago