



Office of the Archbishop
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Easter 2018

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Risen Lord Jesus,

The news today seems to be dominated by death-dealing forces and foreclosed possibilities. This past year has brought us a plague of gun-violence, streams of helpless refugees in different parts of the world, struggles in our own nation around questions of immigration and racism, countless victims of natural disasters, and large numbers of people who are—in the words of Pope Francis—“discarded.” There seems to be scant room for hope and optimism.

Yet, we know by our own experience as believers and our common bonds of faith that this is not the full story of reality. There, indeed, is other news, the good news of our Easter faith. Christ has conquered all death and evil. Christ is risen!

When we profess our faith in the risen Lord, we do not deny the pain and suffering at work in our world. The risen Christ himself bears his wounds of his suffering, but he is risen. He has conquered sin and death, and our victory is certain. We hold a great hope in him who leads forward. But, it does not end there, for as St. Paul tells us, all of that we celebrate in these days has taken place so that we “might live no longer for ourselves but for him who died for our sakes and was raised.”

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, our commitment to *Renew My Church* means that we take our Easter faith seriously to the point that it becomes the source of new energy for communities and individuals who share our faith with the world and bring it hope the world cannot take away.

May our faith in the Risen Lord be alive in our hearts, and may we share that gift widely and generously with others.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Card. Blase J. Cupich".

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago