

THE GREAT AND HOLY FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
A.D. MMXVII



NOW the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:16-20

THE one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen. Revelation 22:20-21

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Dear Brother, Dear Sister in Christ,

It has become a custom, almost a ‘tradition’ to write to you before the Great Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I hope deep down that these few words find you “along the way” to the “passing/passover” that leads to God.

Passover is actually the translation of the term Pascha (Easter), a “passing” from a lifestyle that doesn’t go beyond one’s nose (that doesn’t reach farther than the small horizon of one’s own interests, one that becomes a “lack of life”, similar to the “life that passes by you”, lived in a wrongfully manner - this being also the translation of the word “sin”)... to a way of life in which you discover that you are sought, and that others among you on this path are sought too.

You/we are sought by God!

“He is calling you by your own name”, using a very beautiful and powerful biblical idiom. God is calling you because He knows you since you were in your mother’s womb... He knows all the steps you have taken until this very moment, your whole personal history, with all the joys and sufferings in it.

Discovering Jesus who is “seeking and calling you by name”, you experience that widening of the horizon you live in... a horizon that now includes also your neighbors, colleagues, friends and relatives...

There is a verse in the Bible that I want to share with you: I ran the way of your commandments when you widened my heart. (Psalm 119, 32 - Lexham English Septuagint edition).

This is a beautiful way of “getting on the road” in order to live “the passing/Passover in Christ”, together with the many, many brothers and sisters that are along the way with you: the unique path of the Passover - Pascha - Easter!

This year, these words have a special meaning for me, as you know, I am “along the way” in the Romanian Greek-Catholic Church. We, Christians of different Rites and denominations celebrate Easter on a different date, following a different calendar. In this year, liturgically speaking, “your way” and “my way” (and I write this with joy and gratitude) become “our way”. We will celebrate Holy Easter together!

My greetings - done on behalf of the Monastic Community I belong to - is that of inviting you to find the courage to lift your eyes to the One who is seeking and calling you by your own name: His name is Jesus, the Son of God, who – in order to seek and to find you, walked the path of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, so that you become a free person and a son of God.

This greeting also wants to be an invitation, a spurring, to recognize yourself as a “sinner that is converting” (putting yourself again and again on the path of Christ), experiencing anew the grace of the mercy of God in the Sacrament of Confession so that the Eucharist may truly become, for you and

your loved ones, a joyous and luminous paschal celebration.
Please pray for me and my Community,

Yours in Christ,
Father Athanasius

