



Our Lady of Pompeii Church

25 Carmine Street, New York, NY 10014

Phone: (212) 989-6805 | Fax: (212) 727-3139

Email: secretary@ourladyofpompeiichurchnyc.org

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Dear Parishioners

We all need to experience God's Love in our life. It is a Love manifested not only in a few special moments, but in every instant of our daily life. We are all aware that it is not always easy to feel this Love, the kind of Love that envelops our heart, that challenges our life's priorities, that in difficult moments assures us that we are not alone. During lent we were invited to reflect upon God's love in our life.

And now we need to come together and celebrate the salvation mystery of Easter - the realization that God, on the Cross, gives Himself completely to us, taking upon Himself the sins of every single person and, by rising again, offers to us new life.

We all had occasions of fear in our lives. Fear of the dark as a child, fear of losing our youth, fear of growing old, fear of being dependent on others, of burdening our loved ones, of being alone and, ultimately, the fear of coming at the end of our life. We all have our fears, Mary was afraid when she and Joseph lost the 12 years old Jesus in the temple. She was terrified when Jesus died on the cross. Peter, the apostle, fearful for his life, denied Jesus three times. Driven by fear, all the apostles abandoned Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Certainly, the most terrible and horrific fear was felt by Judas, the fear of not be forgiven, the desperation that caused him to be unable to forgive himself.

Only the encounter with the Risen Christ, the encounter with God who loves, made Mary smile, the Apostles find peace and Peter able to forgive himself.

In these days, as a community of faith, we pray that all of us may find true peace, the peace that only God can give because only God loves us with infinite love.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Scalabrinian priests who staff our parish, I want to thank all of you for the good and affection you show us and our faith community. May the light of the Risen Lord shine in our lives to be able to be inspired by him. May the joy of His resurrection be mirrored in our community as a source of peace and serenity today and always. Amen!

I wish you a Happy Easter.

Padre Angelo, c.s.