



# CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

June 2011

Dear Catholic Daughters:

Three days after Easter Sunday, I officiated at the Liturgy of Christian Burial for a 32 day old infant girl. Melania was her Baptismal name. I witnessed the grief and anguish of heart that her Mom and Dad displayed, and rightly so. Why, was the question that was on my mind and in my heart. Then, I remembered the words of three days ago; words spoke to the faithful female followers of Jesus. "*Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.*" This is the core Easter message and variations of these words appear in all the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. He is not here, meaning the Risen Lord is no longer in the tomb. He is here with us, in you and in me, and with Melania's Mommy and Daddy.

Back in the 1980s there was a program on PBS entitled, "The Day The Universe Changed." I found it a fascinating program because it showed the interlocking pieces of scientific and technological breakthroughs, as well as economic changes that bring about fundamental changes in human understanding. Truly the day of Jesus' resurrection is **THE DAY THAT THE UNIVERSE CHANGED.**

*"Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."* The resurrection of Christ confirms the truth of the words: "Love is stronger than death." Love was stronger than Pilate and his soldiers; it is stronger than fear and uncertainty, it is stronger than the constraints of the human condition.

What would a life look like that embodies this truth? It might look like a Catholic Daughter! Catholic Daughters are committed to a hospitality that will not quit, with a respect that honors the least and the last. It would be a Catholic Daughter with a small footstep: respecting earth, air, fire, bread, the fruit of the vine, a Catholic Daughter who would be passionately committed to the protection of vulnerable human life, old and young; It would be a Catholic Daughter whose way of life is committed to rooting out anger and bitterness and moving toward forgiveness.

Easter love, the love that is the power behind the resurrection, is about our being clothed in new garments: the clothing of active love, a passion for justice, the commitment to healing and reconciliation. My dear Catholic Daughters, Easter love and Easter joy call you to commit yourselves to live out this new Easter Joy, being stirred into being by the Holy Spirit.

*"Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised."* Singing is a powerful integration of feeling and thinking that takes us beyond the bounds of the purely rational, into a kind of ecstasy. Singing finds its climactic form in the Easter Alleluia. Alleluia is the nonverbal expression of a joy that cannot be captured in translation. We sing it with jubilation, with joy, each Catholic Daughter in her own way, giving expression to the song and the hope that are deep within her heart. As those who sow with tears and uncertainty, and then find a harvest that is beyond all measure, we always sing the Easter alleluia, our hearts full of confident hope that God will lift us up with the Risen Christ. "*Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised.*"

Father Ed Lamp  
National Chaplain