



Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

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Dear Friend,

Every morning the sun rises in the East; and that's the way it is already for millions of years, every morning and always in the East. At least that's how we perceive it. We see the light of the sun coming up from the East.

When several hundreds of years after Jesus' death and resurrection the Christians started building their first churches, they needed a direction for their prayers. So they built toward the East. When they entered the churches at early morning they would look into the rising sun which shone through the windows.

The East is the direction of the Risen Lord. Christ is the "Sol invictus", the victorious Sun, the Light from the East. Our faith in the Risen Lord gives us an orientation for life as Christians. Just as the sun rises in the East and with its light dispels the darkness on the earth, so the words of the Risen Lord are a message full of power and wisdom that gave direction to the women and men disciples. That is also why every year during the Easter liturgies the wonderful stories of the Risen Lord are retold; not because they are beautiful stories, but because they are meaningful for the life of Christians. In these Easter stories it is being revealed to Christians that life for them has a good future when they trust in Jesus' word and give direction to their lives according to his words and deeds.

The Risen Lord drives away the darkness of fear and desolation. "Why are you crying" the angel asks; and "why are you seeking the living among the dead?" The risen Jesus doesn't give Mary Magdalene much time to cling to him in her great joy after she recognizes him, but sends her to be the carrier of light in turn. "Go and tell my brothers!" And she runs with that message of hope and light and life.

Like Mary Magdalene each one of us is being sent to "go and tell" the Easter message: HE IS RISEN. We are Easter people, witnesses of the Risen Lord, the dispeller of darkness, fear and sin; we are witnesses of joy and peace, because we receive Jesus' reassurance in faith: I arose and I am with you.

Blessed Easter to you!

Srs. Agathe and Veronica Marie, Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters

