



Easter 2023

Circular Letter #10
Easter

“They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.” Luke 24:2-3

Dear Sisters and Associates,

We arise today aware that we have just heard some incredibly good news. Jesus has been raised from the dead. The tomb is empty. The grave has been opened. We rejoice in total amazement. I find the word “grave” impactful and would like to explore what it might mean to us as we celebrate the Easter season.

We all know that a grave is the place where a body is buried. Grave is also used as an adjective describing something serious or of great importance. So, during Eastertide, how do we relate to Jesus’ empty grave, certainly a matter of great importance? Perhaps we might ask ourselves what “grave” in my life needs to be opened this Easter season?

Has your heart become a grave that is sealed with anger, anxiety, or grief? Can you resolve to reach out to an individual who has hurt you? Would you be able to approach a person whom you have hurt? Maybe then you can rise from your brokenness. Has work or ministry become your grave? Does it demand too much of your time or energy at the expense of spending time with loved ones? Too busy to pray? Look at your priorities and your calendar to determine if they are in order. Break the bindings of schedules and let the light of Easter shine within you.

Are you entombed in despair and cynicism because of past or recent disappointments or failures? Do you find yourself buried in an attitude of “I just do not care anymore”? Push back these stones, these barriers, and move toward the Easter light, toward something fresh and new.

If you engage in these practices, you will indeed experience Resurrection from your grave. This may allow you to embrace new life from a new perspective. The joy and peace of the risen Jesus may become a living reality in your life. This is my prayer for each of you.

In the Risen Jesus,

Sister Maureen O'Connor, O.S.F.

Sister Maureen O'Connor, OSF
Provincial Superior