"ALLELUIA!" CHRIST IS RISEN!

These are the words that give our life meaning! These are the words that give our world hope! With these simple words we proclaim what God has done in the life giving death and glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we rejoice this Easter I offer you my warmest greetings and my blessing.

Easter is about rebirth and life unending — our rebirth at our Baptism and our participation in eternal life by the worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist. We are invited to renew our baptismal promises and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ ever more devoutly during this season.

As we gather in our churches and with our families to celebrate this Holy Day, let us remember that this is no mere holiday, not just something we sing about and celebrate one Sunday a year, but a reality that we are called to live each day! It is through our faith and our commitment to living a life of love, of sacrifice, and of service to others, just as Jesus did, that we truly proclaim the joy of this Easter message. And every time we overcome temptation, every time we say no to sin, every time evil is vanquished with good, the resurrection of Jesus Christ triumphs in us.

During this Easter Season, let us also pray for those who are suffering in body, mind, soul or spirit, for the lonely and grieving, and for those who are in need of God's mercy and compassion. May we find ways to be a source of faith, hope and comfort for them, sharing the good news of Easter by joining our voices to those of the first disciples in proclaiming, "The Lord is risen!" "He is truly risen!"

May the blessings of Easter fill your hearts and homes. Know that as we celebrate this Easter you remain in my prayers as I ask God's choicest blessings upon you and your loved ones. He is Risen, Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



+ deaned P. Blair

Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair Archbishop of Hartford

