

April 2010

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

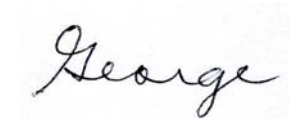
The beginning of April coincides with the beginning of the Triduum—the final three days of Lent and the immediate preparation for the great feast of Easter. The church then gives us 50 days to grasp and live the implications of Easter. We are called to make the mystery real, not just the end of the story but as a way of life in the here-and-now. In many ways, Easter is the final act of the story appearing in the middle. This is what God has in store for us – fearless lives of love and forgiveness. What can stop us now from living fully the identity of the crucified and risen Jesus, given to us at baptism, nourished in us by the Eucharist, affirmed daily by our experience?

We live the same ordinary lives we knew before Easter. But now we know that success and failure, strength and weakness, progress and setback are the rhythm of the paschal mystery, the pattern of life in Christ. We need not be discouraged, because every experience, joyful or sorrowful, is the stuff of our journey with Christ. Easter energy and insight suffuses every detail of our lives, empowers us to make generous choices, propels us to take courageous steps forward in our quest for wholeness and unselfish love.

The same Jesus revealed in the scriptures, filled with patience and purpose, now dwells within us, guiding us to be our deepest selves. This is what St. Paul calls “Christ in you.” May the 50 days of celebrating the mystery of the resurrection in us help us to live Christ within us every day.

Some of the liturgical observances of this month are attached. As we pray and worship this month, let us pray that we will encounter the risen Christ in new and challenging ways this year!

Affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.

