

+ 11 April 2012, Easter Wednesday

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of the Risen Lord and the love of His Mother be with you and your communities!

**THE LORD IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!**

After an arduous Lent and the rollercoaster of Holy Week, we stand at the door of the empty tomb. The Lord, the author of life, put to death for our sake, has risen. Alleluia!

**REJECTION REJECTED.**

Beaten, pierced, mocked, spat upon; how lonely and sad the Lord must have felt: "I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross. O, my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!"

In the ultimate sign of unconditional love, Jesus embraced the cross and died upon it for the love of us. Three days later, the temple which had been destroyed rose anew. To paraphrase my great mentor and friend: the Risen Lord is the reject who rejects rejection. Alleluia!

**LOVE WINS.**

The glory of Easter is a message of hope. And not just the kind of hope that rests in the future, but a hope for right now: "Christ, my Hope, is arisen!" We Christians stand as witnesses to God's promise: death will never again have the final word. Out of love for humanity, the Lord endured the indignity of crucifixion so that our death would be birth. Our faith in Him who rose is a testament, for all time: Love wins! Alleluia!

A spectacle of saints, may our lives be witnesses to the Good News that love is stronger than death. Bolstered by the glory of these Easter days, may we be a people who reject rejection. May we live in the promise of God that, forever more, Love wins.

Asking God's every blessing upon you and assuring you a remembrance in my prayers during the Easter season and throughout the year, may I remain:

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rudy Reyes Jr.

*p.s. This is the final (of eight) installment in our Lenten Series. I welcome and invite your continued feedback and conversation; be in touch!*

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