

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we journey together through lent to the death and resurrection of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ, we strive to empty our lives of distractions and business of the world in order to focus more clearly on the eternal beauty of our Lord.

Extravagance is replaced with simplicity; the poverty of others takes precedence over our wants and cravings, and special services are added to our weekly schedule to guide us on this Holy Journey. We receive the blessings of our hierarchs and the encouragement of our brothers and sisters in Christ to follow our Lord to the valley of the shadow of death, to the light of Holy Pasch!

The victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of death and the hope of new life are indeed our only consolation during these troubled times. The triumph of this Paschal season strengthens our faith and renews our hope. Let us therefore rejoice with the heavens and celebrate with the entire universe on this, the Feast of feasts!

Praying that the Light of the Empty Tomb will bring us the joy and peace that can only come from above.

**I remain,
Your Servant in Christ,**

Fr. Panteleimon Maillis