



**СРПСКИ ПРАВОСЛАВНИ ЕПИСКОП ЗАПАДНОАМЕРИЧКИ**  
**SERBIAN ORTHODOX BISHOP OF WESTERN AMERICA**

TO ALL THE CLERGY, MOST-VENERABLE MONASTICS,  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,  
ALL MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN AMERICAN DIOCESE

*"The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, all people."*

The Church hymnographer with these words expresses the universal joy because of the miraculous event - the Resurrection of Christ. Since the creation of the world, nothing more important than this event took place in the Cosmos. St. Nicholai of Zicha and Ohrid says for the greatest feast: "Christ's Resurrection brought to humankind a fundamental change, equal to the creation of the world. Knowing and feeling this, the Apostle Paul, the repentant persecutor of Christians, exclaims: "All things have passed away; behold all things have become new." (II Cor. 5:17)

Therefore, Orthodox brothers, the Holy Church invites us through fasting, repentance and confession to prepare to celebrate the Resurrection as the end of everything "old" in us and our entrance into the "new". Let us think about ourselves and our relationship with God. His Resurrection is our hope, our salvation, and the response to our living and suffering. Christ's Resurrection is our comfort as well as the comfort of all suffering and God-desiring souls. May this be the message which, during this Resurrection Feast, we will adapt and place into our hearts.

Christ is risen because of all and opened Paradise which is prepared for all of us. Christ is risen because of all and for all! Let's glorify His glorious Resurrection and sing with the Orthodox universe: "Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the Angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify You in purity of heart."

All of you, dear brothers and sisters, members of the clergy and monastics, of our Diocese, we greet on this Glorious Feast with the traditional greeting,

**"Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"**

ALHAMBRA,  
Pascha, 2004

In humble prayer, yours in the resurrected Lord,

**BISHOP OF AMERICA AND CANADA NGM**  
**ADMINISTRATOR OF WESTERN AMERICA**