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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty Kings triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness. Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples."

These words are from the first two verses of the Exsultet, the great Easter Proclamation we hear at the Easter Vigil. This hymn rejoices in the great and wonderful event of Christ's resurrection from the dead. This is the basic fact of our faith, this is our Easter Joy and it should cause us all to rejoice. Christ is Risen and heaven is open for us all. It is this fact of our faith that brings to our lips the great ALLELUIA of Easter.

The truth of Jesus resurrection from the dead has given every human being a true reason to rejoice. In Jesus resurrection we have been given the promise of heaven, God has overcome sin and death and invites us to come to Him through Christ. My prayer for everyone on this great feast of Easter is that we may be able to feel, know and experience the true joy of Christ's resurrection through this Easter season and every day of our lives.

I want to thank everyone who has helped make our Triduum and Easter liturgies wonderful, uplifting, and holy experiences. Thank you to all of our servers, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, sacristans, ushers and musicians. I, and I am sure everyone in our parishes, deeply appreciate your service and ministry to all three of our parishes. A special thank you goes to all of those who decorate and clean our churches; everything was beautiful for all of our liturgies.

I will be away on my annual retreat from April 3<sup>rd</sup> through April 11<sup>th</sup>. Please know that everyone will be in my prayers during my retreat and please keep me in your prayers. Msgr. Michael Patnode will be taking my place for our weekend Masses, please welcome him warmly. While I am gone in case of emergency please contact Deacon Jim at Sacred Heart in Baudette at 218-634-2689, Fr. John Kleinwachter in Roseau at 218-463-2441, or Fr. George Noel in Greenbush at 218-782-2467.

May everyone have a peace filled and joyous Easter, and remember Christ is Risen; He is Truly Risen.