

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral
165 Park Drive
Boston, Massachusetts 02215**

Pascha 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It has been a very difficult year. Like a magnifying lens, the pandemic has exposed the frailties of human nature. Sickness, fear and death have enveloped the entire world, while the diversions we sought to escape these realities only led us back to the gravity of the pandemic that confirmed the plight of the human condition.

Created in the image and likeness of God does not mitigate the fact that we are susceptible not only to sickness and death, but are personally and communally driven by sins that foster rebelliousness and polarization. Indeed, even when we know what is good, true and beautiful, we turn to their opposites. The social and economic conditions we find ourselves in, as well as the social and economic conditions we create, attest to this. In his letter to the Romans, Saint Paul alludes to the psychological schism of the human condition sustained by sin: "I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do every thing that I hate." (7:15)

Into the midst of the chaotic forces of human sin and mortality, God sends us his Only Begotten Son so that we may have life in abundance. (John 10:10) Having taken upon himself the sin of the world, (John 1:29) Jesus bears our mortality as he makes his way to Golgotha. In his most vulnerable state the Savior of the world reveals his power and glory: "Now is the judgment of this world, now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12:31) Suspended upon the cross, Jesus humbles himself to the extent that he becomes sin so that in and through him "we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The cross, the tomb and the resurrection of Jesus Christ forge the new and everlasting covenant. Here and now we are invited to enter the mystery of our Lord's saving death and resurrection. Here and now we are called to personally and as the Church, to convincingly reveal to the world that "in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away: behold the new is coming into existence." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

En agape,

Father Robert