



Dear Friends in Christ,

“I lay down my life in order to take it up again.” (John 10:16)

Our Lord’s words above seem to roll Lent, Holy Week, the Triduum and Easter into one. Regarding the sacrifice of His life, Jesus makes it clear that this sacrifice is free and *intentional*, ***“No one takes it (His life) from me, but I lay it down on my own.”*** Jesus’ death for the salvation of all is no accident, but a willful, free, total and intentional gift of self for all.

Jesus grants us the gift and opportunity of salvation through the free and intentional sacrifice of His life, and He calls us to walk in love – sacrificial, willful, intentional, self-donating love. We are not only saved from sin, Satan and death; we are called and empowered to live a willful, intentional, sacrificial life.

Jesus doesn’t simply assure us of the free offering of His life for us; He also tells us that He will take His life up again through His own resurrection power! Only Jesus could make such declarations and follow through on them, for He is the ***“Resurrection and the Life.”***

Let us rejoice and persevere in the salvation Jesus grants us through the holy season of Easter. While we cannot say, ***“I lay my life down in order to take it up,”*** we can, and should, by His graces, offer our lives in service to Him, our families and neighbors, and trust that we may have a resurrection like His. Let us make this total offering of ourselves with burning evangelistic zeal in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life.

May this Easter Season be the best of your life!

Your servant in Christ,