



## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHANCERY OFFICE

146/148 North Front Street  
P.O. Box 1823  
Belize City, Belize, Central America  
Telephone: 501-223-6919  
Email: episkopos@btl.net

### EASTER MESSAGE 2023 BY BISHOP LAWRENCE SYDNEY NICASIO

We, people of good will, joined our hearts on the 40-day journey of Lent, all along, believing and trusting in Him who leads the way on this journey. We believed and trusted that at the end of this journey, our lives would never be the same. We gave up some material things and we became even more spiritual and more loving. We humbled ourselves before our Lord God and we gave, until it hurts, to the neediest in our community. Why do all this? Why join Catholic Christian on this journey?

We all took this journey because of a God who truly loves his children from the heart, a God who has accepted us as his children, as we truly are. We are Zacchaeus. We are Mary Magdalen. We are Peter. We are the Samaritan Woman at the well. We are that man born blind. We are Jairus. We are Lazarus. We are the sinners for whom He came to serve in this our Common Home. As his own, his children, He cannot ignore or deny us. He is like that parent who asks the question of her child - What more must I do for you, my child? How much longer must I bail you out of trouble and point you on the path of life and light?

The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. In the Scriptures He, Jesus, openly mentioned that He will be disrespected, that He will suffer and die in order to ransom us his children from eternal darkness; and that on the third day, He would rise and win us the resurrection and life eternal.

The story of Easter, the celebrations we share during this time bring us face to face to the real purpose of our 40-day journey, to our sacrifice, to our willingness to become even better persons. The celebrations of the Easter Season make real to us that our journey is not in vain, or a waste of time.

The disciples of Jesus "had not yet understood the Scriptures that He had to rise from the dead." But we do understand the Scriptures, our eyes are opened every time we stand before him in that communion line at Eucharist time and say, AMEN! - It is truly you, Lord! No one took you from the tomb and hid you! You have truly risen from the dead! Alleluia, Alleluia!

We must be thankful children to Our Lord, who unselfishly opened his arms on the cross for our salvation, that we may be saved. We cannot save ourselves, as the Holy Father says. The ONE and only Savior of the world has saved us. He has given us the joy and hope of a life in the Light forever. Because of him, we can say that the life we live now will surely not end in death; for we who choose to live for him will all share in a like resurrection.

Let's not then be bashful this Easter 2023 to sing out our Easter hymns. Let us not be bashful in putting on our Easter smile and our Easter garment. He sees us worthy, for him to suffer, die and rise from the dead for our salvation. We must now live lives worthy of his great love for us. We must now live lives as true believers of Easter, believers in the resurrection and life. Alleluia!

May I now shower you with his Easter blessings - In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN!

**+Lawrence Sydney Nicasio**  
**Bishop of Belize City and Belmopan**