**Homily for the Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday, 2025**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**Tonight, we gather here to celebrate the most sacred and beautiful Liturgy of the Church's year, the Easter Vigil.** On this Holy night, the darkness of death gives way to the radiant Light of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. **This is the night of new beginnings, the night when the grave is defeated, and Life triumphs through the Risen Lord.**

**The liturgy begins in darkness, symbolizing the darkness of sin and death that overshadowed the world.** Yet, into this darkness comes the **Paschal Candle**, which we light from the new fire, **proclaiming Christ as the Light of the world.** As the Light spreads throughout the Church, we are reminded that the Resurrection of Jesus Christ dispels all fear and hopelessness. His victory over sin and death illuminates our lives and gives us reason to rejoice. **“This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad” (Ps.118:24).**

**The readings of tonight’s Vigil talk about the history of salvation.** We hear of God’s faithfulness to His people, from the creation of the world, the covenant with Abraham, the miraculous deliverance of the people of Israel through the Red Sea, to the promises spoken through the prophets. **These readings remind us of God’s unceasing love for humanity and His plan to redeem us.**

**In the Gospel, we hear the joyful news of the Resurrection: the tomb is empty, and JESUS IS RISEN!** The women who come to the tomb in sorrow and fear are met with the Angel’s proclamation: **“Do not be afraid. He is not here, for He has been raised”**. **(Almost the same story with the birth of Christ: as the Angles came to announce His conception and His Birth, in the same way an Angel came to announce that He is risen. It is always the Heaven that comes to announce the great Mystery of our Salvation).** Jesus Christ has conquered death and opened the way to eternal life for all who believe in Him.

**Brothers and Sisters, the Resurrection is not just an event of the past; it is the foundation of our faith and our hope, the promise of new life.** Just as Christ was raised to new life, we, too, are invited to rise with Him. **The Easter Vigil is a night of renewal, a time to reaffirm our baptismal promises and recommit ourselves to following Christ.**

**On this Holy night, we are reminded that the Resurrection of Christ transforms everything:** it **brings light** where there was darkness, **hope** where there was despair, and **life** where there was death. As we celebrate the Risen Lord, we are called to be witnesses of His love and Light in the world. **We are called to live as Easter people, proclaiming with joy that Christ is alive and His love is everlasting.**

Tonight, let us rejoice in the gift of salvation and give thanks for the boundless Mercy of God. Let us carry the light of Christ into our homes, our communities, and the world, sharing the hope and joy of the Resurrection with all we encounter.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Let us rejoice and be glad! Happy Easter to all of you!

Amen.