

CALLED TO BE THE FATHER'S CHILD IN GLORY

"All who are guided by the Spirit of God are sons of God for what you received was not the spirit of slavery to bring you back into fear; you received the spirit of adoption, enabling us to cry out 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit Himself joins with our spirit to bear witness that we are children of God. And if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, provided that we share His suffering, so as to share His glory."
(Romans 8: 14-17)

My beloved friends in Christ, may the peace and joy of the risen Lord be with you. Our beloved Jesus, who lived His life to the full, in union with the Father's will, has risen from the dead and is drawing us into the fullness of His resurrected Body through the power of His Holy Spirit, that we may become sons and daughters of the Father in glory.

Have you ever thought, my dear friends, what it means to you to be a son or daughter of our loving Father in Heaven? In the opening scriptural passage, Saint Paul tells us that it is by the power of the Holy Spirit within our soul that we are enabled to cry out this term of endearment 'Abba' to our loving Father. Such a beautiful name with which to call our beloved Father when we are praying to Him, placing our confidence and trust in Him. Our Father loves us with an everlasting love; we are so very precious to Him.

"For the Lord is good, His faithful love is everlasting; His constancy from age to age." (Psalm 100:5) God is love and He has created us out of love that we may share in His wondrous love. The Father so loved us that He sent His only Son to make atonement for our sins that we may have eternal life with Him. Whoever loves God also loves His children. The love of God, my beloved ones, is expressed in love of our neighbour. Jesus has commanded us to do this when He said: **"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it. You must love your neighbour as yourself."** (Matthew 22: 37-40) Let us strive each day to love one another and to reach out with God's merciful love to someone in need as we bring hope to their spirit.

As sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, we are called to be a holy people as we are created in His image and likeness; as such, we can share in the Father's glory and, by active participation, become Saints. Jesus came to sanctify and save us. May we be faithful and worthy of the call of His Holy Spirit as we journey back to our loving Abba.

In the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans, we read these words: **"And if we are children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, provided that we share His suffering, so as to share His glory."** Suffering is part of our human condition due to original sin. We have recently accompanied our beloved Lord in His Passion, Death on the Cross and Resurrection. When we unite our suffering with the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, it becomes a means of redemption and sanctification; in this way, suffering will have a very important place in our life, bringing peace and serenity to our souls even while we are experiencing pain – all by the grace and mercy of God. Let us unite our daily crosses with Jesus so as to share in His glory.

In union of prayers, your sister in Christ,
Esther.