



3441-15th Avenue
Rawdon, Quebec
April 19, 2020

THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

To the dearly beloved Pastors, Monastics and Faithful of the Archdiocese of Canada, Orthodox Church in America

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

As these blessed words resound in our homes filling us with joy and hope, our churches have remained silent this year, caused by the pandemic of the COVID-19 virus across our world. We have just lived our strangest Lent ever, faced by a constant threat to our lives and that of our loved ones. We have been forced to leave the comfort of our temples and services, go into our rooms, close the door and pray to our Father in secret. We have had to renew our communion with our God, from the usual Sunday morning Assemblies and Eucharistic sharing to one of more personal re-discovery of our relationship with our Creator and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Our clergy have had to adapt their service to their people using different means of communications. The Hierarchs also have had to find new ways of remaining in constant contact with their Flock. But more importantly, we all have been brought to more intense personal prayer life. We must continue, whatever the Lord's will for us in the coming weeks, months and years. Let us continue to nurture what He has planted in our soul during this Great Fast, let it grow that we may be able to face more easily what lies ahead in the coming months.

Let us now rejoice as did the Women at the Life-Giving Tomb and as the Holy Apostles when they behind close doors sharing with all those with us but also with all those separated from us temporarily.



My beloved Fathers, Mothers, Brothers and Sisters, I greet you all with this great message of Hope. **CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**



+ Ab. Irénée

+AB IRÉNÉE

Archevêque d'Ottawa et du Canada (ÉOA)
Archbishop of Ottawa and Canada (OCA)
and the Archdiocese of Canada