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The Hope of Easter: Resurrection and the Call to Serve

1. Introduction: From the Cross to the Resurrection

Lent culminates in Easter, the celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death. But Easter is not only a past event; it is a living reality that calls us to renewal and mission. The resurrection is not just a promise of eternal life but a call to bring life where there is suffering, injustice, and despair. St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac understood that true faith in the resurrection compels us to be bearers of hope in the world, especially among the poor. How does the risen Christ invite us to be agents of transformation today?

2. Living the Resurrection

The resurrection is not just about personal salvation—it is a call to action. As Vincentians, we are invited to make the hope of Easter tangible in the lives of those who are most in need.

- **Bringing Light to Darkness:** Just as Christ's resurrection dispelled the darkness of sin and death, we are called to be sources of hope for those struggling with despair, poverty, and marginalization.
- **Renewal through Service:** The resurrection transforms us, making us new creations in Christ. This renewal should be reflected in our commitment to serve with greater love, energy, and dedication.
- **Community of the Risen Christ:** The early Christian community lived out the resurrection by sharing all they had with one another. We too are called to build communities where the dignity and needs of all are honored.
- **Easter as a Call to Justice:** The resurrection is a victory over all forces that oppress and destroy life. Living as Easter people means actively working for justice and systemic change that uplifts the poor.

To live the resurrection is to proclaim with our lives that love is stronger than hatred, hope is greater than despair, and God's life overcomes all death.

3. Call to Action: Be a Bearer of Easter Hope

This week, reflect on how you can bring the light of the resurrection to others:

- Offer encouragement to someone who is struggling.
- Commit to an act of service that brings renewal to your community.
- Reflect on how Easter calls you to deeper solidarity with the poor.

4. Questions for Personal and Group Reflection:

1. How does the resurrection challenge me to live differently?
2. In what ways can I bring Easter hope to those who suffer?
3. How can I strengthen my commitment to serving others in light of the resurrection?
4. What structures of injustice must I work to change as an Easter disciple?
5. How can our community embody the joy and mission of the risen Christ?

5. Closing Prayer:

God of life and renewal, You who raised Jesus from the dead, fill us with the hope and power of the resurrection. May we be bearers of Your light in a world that often feels dark. Strengthen us to serve with joy, to love with commitment, and to work tirelessly for justice. Through Christ our Risen Lord. Amen.