



*Easter message  
from Casante  
to the Calabrian Family*

*Easter 2021*

---

*“Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.  
Therefore, let us celebrate the festival,  
not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil,  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth”. (1Cor 5:7-8)*

---

**D**ear brothers and sisters of the **C**alabrian **F**amily,

May the grace, love, joy and peace of the Risen Christ fill our hearts with true love and true hope that we may be able to welcome the Risen Christ in his fullness!

Today, more than ever before with a joyful heart full of deep feelings of gratitude, I communicate to all of you my wishes of a Happy and Holy Easter! Really and truly I feel sentiments of deep gratitude and fraternity, as perhaps I have never felt before. The Covid 19 that affected me made me feel your closeness better and gave me the opportunity to live this experience in communion and solidarity with all those who live this situation of great suffering.

While I was praying and reflecting on my Easter message for the Calabrian Family, the passage that came to my heart immediately is the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians: *“Our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1Cor 5:7-8).*

Many times during this period I have written and shared in my reflections that the Pandemic has accelerated the process of change in the human life and we are living today in a new era. To live in this new era we need to be new and renewed persons, as Don Calabria would tell us: “Either renew ourselves or perish”. But the newness of life, we cannot find it in ourselves. It is the Lord who transforms us; only He can renew us with the new leaven of his Easter that works in us.

We are often tempted to think that we are the ones who should strive to change and improve; and we do not realize that only Christ can give us a new life and a new leaven. Only He can take away the old leaven of our hypocrisy, our illusions, our self-sufficiency and our vanity; and transform us inwardly with His strength, His grace and His resurrection.

Once again we are living a special and particular Holy Week and Easter, in solidarity and communion with many people in different parts of the world. In these days I am discovering another dimension of Holy Week and the same I hope also of Easter: a more interior dimension of contemplation, away from the haste and daily rush and agitation. It is a Holy Week that leads

me to contemplate the nakedness of the cross, the essentiality of life and what really counts before the mystery of Christ. In this experience of suffering, weariness and fatigue, one can feel how faithful God is, how much He loves us and how much his love does not abandon us.

The pandemic is not simply an external fact that affects us physically. It changes us inside, because it makes us experience weakness, unease and loneliness. At the same time it allows us to touch and experience the tenderness of a God who comes and takes care of us, and does so through the closeness and concrete gestures of the simplest of people.

At times the darkness of the night may seem to penetrate inside and the heart may no longer find the strength to love. But it is precisely here that Christ reaches with a new hope, with a new germ of life. The stone of pain is thus overturned and the hope is ignited... Here is the great mystery of Easter!

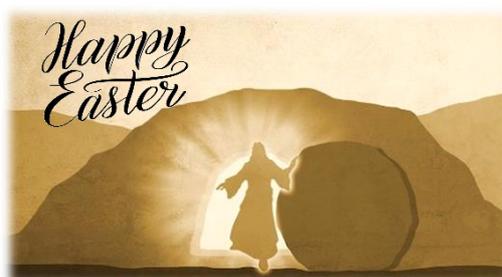
New men who live in a new time, men fermented with the leaven of love, with the leaven of brotherhood, of tenderness, with the leaven of those who let themselves be wrapped by the strength that comes from the risen Christ... New men, capable of letting themselves be transformed to inhabit this land and live in justice and holiness of life...

Dear brothers and sisters, Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed! Let's remove the old yeast, the one contaminated with the virus of individualism, self-reference, mistrust, lack of fraternity and communion, in order to welcome the new yeast, capable of transforming our life. Only Christ, our paschal lamp can make this happen in us: eliminating what is old in order to make room for the new.

The ferments of Easter are today a new possibility to live, to be new persons, as Fr. Calabria reminds us: *"We, on this day, must rise again with Jesus Christ, and this spiritual resurrection should not be not just in words, but also in deeds; It should not be only a resurrection of the moment and of fervor, that is, going back to the old as before, but a stable and complete one... Jesus Christ is risen and is risen never to die again: in these days we too are risen to grace... Throw away from you your prevarications, and make for yourselves a new heart and new spirit. This is what St. Paul means when he says that the old ferment must be thrown away and Easter must be celebrated not in the ferment of malice and hypocrisy, but in actions of sincerity and truth"*<sup>1</sup>

Let the experience of Easter lead all of us to a profound growth in humanity, in fraternity, in solidarity, in spirituality, in passion for the Spirit of the Opera and in love for the poor. Let it form in us a sober and essential life, where we can all find ourselves as brothers in Christ and children who are loved infinitely by the one provident Father.

I bless all of you with all my heart and I thank you for the charity you expressed through your prayers. I am close to all of you and I sincerely wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter! May the risen Christ give us a new leaven, which makes our whole life and our Opera with fruits of love and holiness.



*Fr. Miguel Tofful*  
Fr. Miguel Tofful

---

<sup>1</sup> Don Calabria, VANG. FEST. \* 3851