Dearest brothers and sister of the Calabrian Family,

The hope in the risen Christ, our Easter, may always remain in our hearts and may He give us a profound inner peace and a true love!

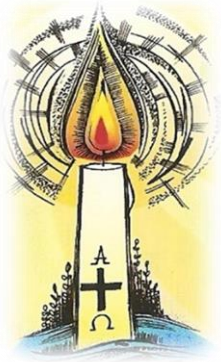
In celebrating the Holy Easter, I would like to address all of you my paternal and fraternal greetings, assuring you once more my presence and proximity through prayer. During this period, I think of you and I feel united to each one of you. Like "communicant vessels" we continue journeying together towards unity.

The Easter of 2020 is different from all the others and it will remain in the Church history and in our lives as the Easter marked by this Pandemic. I am strongly convinced that, nevertheless the sufferings, the Lord is giving us an extraordinary possibility of renewal in hope by lifting our eyes towards Him who conquered death with His Resurrection.

In times of so much sufferings and uncertainties it is urgent to witness fraternity and communion amongst us, done by gestures that express sensibility and solidarity towards others, showing our hope and make us feel that embrace of God Provident, who is amongst us.

All of us wish the end of this difficult time, caused by the Pandemic of Coronavirus. All of us wish that one day we will resume our normal lives. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us that night of suffering doesn't have the last word because He won it through his resurrection. In the risen Lord, life has won death and Easter feeds our hope.

We wish that as soon as this Pandemic ends, and all of us come out safely, renewed in Jesus who never abandons us because He is always with us *"in the same boat"*. This is our hope and we will never be disappointed. This is the great Paschal mystery!



In the celebration of Easter Vigil the Church gives us the light of Risen Lord which illumines every night, which illumines also the night the world is passing through. This light reaches our families, our communities and our activities and gives us the confidence that the Risen Lord has won the darkness of death and that we will rise with Him.

As Christians, and as members of the Calabrian Family, we are called to be the watchmen of the dawn, who know to interpret the signs of the Risen, as the women and the disciples did, gathered at the tomb early in the morning in the first day of the week, that morning of the Easter. In this Easter I invite you to light a Easter Candle in your homes, as a sign of our faith in the resurrection. Once the candle is lit each member of the family is invited to hold it in order to share the joy of Easter.

The light of the Risen Lord continues shining amongst and we can see this, today, in so many people who witness the resurrection. We can think of those people who are embracing the cross and overcome it with love and concrete gestures in everyday life: in the religious communities, in the parishes, in families, in the hospitals, in those who care for the disabled, in the children, and in the poor. Love is creative, even in finding new ways of relating, communicating and in living fraternally and in communion, which makes us closer to each other. This creativity is fundamental for activating the channels which keep us united in order to reach people with a message of hope, of trust and abandonment in God our Father. This is the mission of the Opera. Our charism invites us to rekindle *faith in the world, trust and abandonment in God´s Providence*. It encourages us to real closeness to our brothers through concrete gestures of love and fraternity with the whole humanity, as would also do Don Calabria.

I conclude with a text taken from the writings of Don Calabria during the war, which we feel fit for us in this moment. May these words help us lift our eyes towards the Risen Lord: "*May the grace of the Lord fill your hearts and his peace reign in your families. I feel compelled to address you my simple words which come spontaneously as we approach the Holy Easter. My wish, which is filled with fatherly love towards you, is not only for the spiritual well-being but also that of temporal well-being, which results from the spiritual welfare: may the Lord resurrect in you, in your souls, in your hearts and renew you in the spirit. We living difficult times, filled with anxiety: our heart is filled with growing anxiety… death is reaping thousands and thousands lives in big cities which have become the battle ground… my Easter wish, for you and for all, is that must dedicate our lives to sanctification, resurrecting with Christ to a new life according to our vocation, for the graces received*"[1].

With this wish of Don Calabria, and also mine today, I greet you and encourage you to live in an extraordinary way these holy days, by foreseeing through them the light of Easter and nurturing the hope coming from it, because "Christ, our hope, is risen!".

Pray for me as I constantly remember you in my prayers, which is the best and concrete way of embracing all of you with paternal and fraternal love.

Happy and Holly Easter!

P. Miguel Tofful

[1] Fr. Calabria, L'AMICO * 6007 February 1944..