

*"He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee. The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners be crucified and on the third day be raised again. (Luke 24:6-7)."*

Dear Friends,

During this holy season of Lent and with Easter, I extend my greetings. To all our faithful ones at St. Stephen of Hungary Mission, to the larger Hungarian community, here in Chicago and back home in Hungary, and to people of good will interested in our mission work, I promise to pray for you.

This time affords us an opportunity to pray more, to fast more and to give to charity more. Pope Francis reminds us, *"This is the Church's essential task: to pray and to teach people to pray. To transmit the lamp of faith and the oil of prayer from generation to generation ."*

I remember spending some time in the Manzana Jesuitica in Cordoba, Argentina and meditating in prayer in the same place as Padre Jorge Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) would spend hours asking the Lord's guidance and blessings for the church at a time of much civil discord and violence. We need to ask our Blessed Lord to guide us too in our days.

Recently, I attended a meeting hosted by Cardinal Blase Cupich concerning our upcoming *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call campaign*. At the heart of his talk was our need to see spiritual growth in our communities and to pass on our faith from generation to generation.

Back on February 1, at the Hungarian (Magyar) Club Gala Ball, those in attendance read the words of Tristan Azbej, who is the State Secretary for the Aid of Persecuted Christians. He states, "It is our responsibility to ensure that the language, traditions, and values that define us, and our religious ties that bind us, continue to thrive in the hearts of generations yet to come.

At our gathering our Hungarian Consul General Martonffy Balazs let us know that 2025 has been designated as the "Year of the Next Generation (a jövő nemzedék éve).

All these good intentions and hopes to see something emerge better for generations! Let us commit ourselves to this task: to pass on our faith to the next generation.

When Jesus suffered and died for us in order to break the power of sin and death he was giving us a future, not only of eternal life for those who accept his way, but also, to make our world a better place. That has been the significance of our Lenten journey as well as the Easter joy that awaits us, to be aware of the presence of God in our daily lives and to live with him forever.

Holy Week schedule:

- Holy Thursday - April 17th - 7:00 PM Mass of the Last Super, prayer and adoration;
- Holy Friday - April 18th - 6:30 PM Station of the Cross, 7:00 PM Solemn Liturgy;
- Holy Saturday - April 19th - 7:00 PM - Easter Vigil and Mass, blessing of food;
- EASTER SUNDAY - April 20th - 10:00 AM Mass

May the Lord bless you and your families and keep you in His divine love. Happy Easter to ALL!

Ayta James