

### THE EASTER SEASON

At this season of the year when the harshness of our northern winter yields to the softening influence of the returning sun, the Church fittingly celebrates the great Easter festival commemorative of the Death and Resurrection of our Lord. And even as the season marks the transition from the stormy months of winter to the warmth and brightness of spring, so, in the ritual of the Church, Easter signifies our emergence from the fasts and rigors of the Lenten season to joyful contemplation of the fruits of the Resurrection.

Easter is the central gem in the brilliant galaxy of festivals which the Church celebrates throughout the Ecclesiastical year. Even the solemn feast of Christmas, which commemorates the Birth of our Saviour, is only a preparation for Easter. The Resurrection of Christ is the foundation of our faith, for on it is based the proof of His Divinity, on which in turn depends the truth of our religion. In the Resurrection, also lies the motive for our hope of future life for it induces us to believe in the resurrection of our own bodies in the greater life beyond, where we confidently hope to see and enjoy God eternally.

Another demonstration of the pre-eminence of Easter lies in the fact that it is the centre of the moveable feasts of the Ecclesiastical year. The Sundays from Septuagesima to the last Sunday after Pentecost, the feasts of the Ascension, Pentecost, Corpus Christi, and all the other moveable feasts depend upon the date of Easter. The Easter festival is itself moveable, a circumstance which in times past gave rise to considerable controversy between countries using different systems of Chronology. Uniformity was finally attained by the formulation of the rule that Easter should fall on the first Sunday occurring after the first full moon following the twenty-first of March. Thus the earliest date of Easter is the twenty-second of March and the latest the twenty-fifth of April.

Not without good reason then does the Catholic Church the world over contemplate the Easter season with traditional reverence, commemorating, as it does, the slaying of the true Lamb of God, and the glorious Resurrection. It is the oldest feast in the Christian Church, as old as Christianity itself, and the connecting link between the Old and New Testaments.

—EDITORIAL