

April 25, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the St. Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church Hibbing, MN,

I greet you in the name of the Risen Lord.

Christ is Risen!

As two of the most radiant and festive weeks in our Church calendar have passed. Today, we can once again commemorate a memorial service for the departed.

In preparation for this day, it came to my mind that within our blessed parishes a certain question has often arisen. "Why do we boil wheat in commemoration of our departed loved ones?"

Well, as always, and forever, Jesus Christ Himself answers best:

"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow me; and where I am, they're My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My father will honor(Jn.12:24-26)."

Just as healthy wheat eventually dies, falls to the ground and produces much fruit (i.e. many other healthy wheats), so is the life of a spiritually healthy Christian.

Truly He is Risen!

With the blessings of God,
Father Constantine "Dean" Franck