

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is my pleasure and honour to bring you greetings on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the global Mothers' Union and our central headquarters staff at Mary Sumner House. We are in the season of Lent and as I write to you, we are moving forward to the celebration of Easter. I often say that this is indeed a 'bright sad' season of Lent.

We walk with Jesus in the wilderness, we walk with him as he takes his cross, as he falls, as he meets his mother, and as Simon and Veronica help him. Jesus consoles the women and falls several more times. He is stripped, he is crucified, and he dies on the cross. He is taken down and buried. This is the journey that we walk in Lent and in Holy Week. It was a painful and costly journey for Jesus, and for those who loved him, and who love him now.

Our journeys can be painful and costly for us, but we have the bright sad hope that God meets us in our suffering. He does not stand apart from it but rather walks with us as He said he would. We cannot have Easter without walking this path with Jesus.

In John 20:1 we read *'early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.'*

Jesus had already risen from the dead before any of the disciples were aware that he had risen. This gives us hope that our Heavenly Father is in control well before we even become aware of the answer to our prayers or requests. He knows all and is always, always with us.

Jesus' resurrection is about new beginnings. God gives us a new dawn, a new creation, and a renewed purpose. As we mark our 150th Anniversary, we step into a new season not just because we are strong, but because Christ is risen and goes before us. He not only goes before us, but he walks with us and at times he carries us.

In 1 Corinthians 15:58 we are reminded to *'stand firm and let nothing move us...to give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, for our labor in the Lord is not in vain.'*



We are a Kingdom people of hope. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We are stronger together. We are the 'mighty Mothers' Union' to quote Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, and we have served our Heavenly Father for 150 years. Let us be the light for those around us and a beacon of hope for years to come.

A blessed Holy Week and Easter to you. May He find you in the midst of the busyness of your lives and in the quiet spaces of your prayer.

May He bless us and keep us,



Kathleen Snow
Worldwide President
The Mothers' Union

**I told you from the start, my other self, my life was not complete until I crowned it by my death.
Your "way" is not complete unless you crown it by your life.**

**Accept each moment as it comes to you, with faith and trust that all that happens has my mark on it.
A simple fiat, this is all it takes; a breathing in your heart, "I will it, Lord."**

**So seek me not in far-off places.
I am close at hand.
Your workbench, office, kitchen, these are the altars where you offer love.
And I am with you there.**

**Go now!
Take up your cross and with your life complete your way.**

Everyone's Way of the Cross, Clarence Enzler