"True in heart, sound in mind, pure in body and flawlessly honest..."

He is Risen! Happy Easter to you! Welcome to EWTN's Open Line Tuesday edition! I'm Barbara McGuigan, alive and grateful to be your host every Tuesday! What a blessing it is to be together. One thing we know for certain: we never walk the "royal road of the Cross" alone! Here are the numbers to call:

In North America call 1-800-585-9396
Outside North America call 1-205-271-2985
Our email address is Openline@ewtn.com

I hope your heart was bursting with joy this Easter Sunday! You know, there is no joy like the joy of the Church on Easter! I hope you were able to immerse yourself in this great event! We are one with the Blessed Mother who experienced first, in the wee hours of Easter morning, the joy of seeing her Son alive! Imagine that! Her joy goes beyond that of holding her Son on Christmas morning; it goes beyond even the natural joy of having a dead son come back to life, for Christ has not *returned* to life, but has entered into the *glorious* life of Heaven, Body and Soul! And one day, so will we!

The Resurrection restores life and the presence of God! "The Cross of shame becomes the throne of glory!" He who was slain, now lives forever. In Him, all death has died! But having said that, the Resurrection of Christ must be a truth that changes us, too! Even though we still live our natural life, we possess that new and glorious life of His. "We are in some sense already in Heaven, believe it or not… especially through the Sacred Liturgy…hidden with Christ in God! At the end of his homily this Easter Sunday, our holy pastor shouted out…"He is risen! Now we have hope!"

My brothers and sisters, we must show this on our faces!! The Resurrection is all about Restoration. Jesus came not only to redeem us but to transform us…to restore us to our dignity as children of God. Let us witness to this truth! How often have I heard people say, "Oh, why do you waste your time teaching virtue, especially chastity and modesty to teenagers, they're going to do it anyway"…or "That kid's a lost cause, it's in his genes…or "There's no hope for her, her life's a mess." People who say these things are believing in a dead Jesus!

He is risen to restore us so that we can continue to carry out our mission! When the culture of death seems more powerful than the culture of life, we need to pray for a clear vision of the Resurrection and find our true selves in His kingdom of life. Yes, our true selves.

In this hedonistic, narcissistic, materialistic culture people always seem to be clamoring to "find themselves." Remember that song, " I want to be me, just gotta be me." The problem is, as I see it anyway, these same souls pacing pensively up and down the "Self-help" aisles in the bookstores might be lost forever…Until they

recognize Jesus, the Great I Am, they will never know who they really are. Why? Because Jesus IS OUR TRUE SELF. It's not what we can do, but what He can do through us.

So we must always strive to be true in heart, sound in mind, pure in body and flawlessly honest, transparent, that is, authentic. We must pray, pray, pray. And I don't just mean a few whisperings on our pillows at night, but a concerted effort to get to Holy Mass every day, if possible. At least pray the Mass on EWTN if you are unable to go. A concerted effort to say at least one rosary each day. Of course, Eucharistic Adoration as often as possible is necessary in order to give our Great God glory and praise and to beg Him to infuse us with His wisdom and grace.

The days ahead will be filled with "raw evil." I'm afraid we've only witnessed the tip of the iceberg. Many human beings worldwide have bought the lies of the assassins surrounding us on all sides: assassins in our government, in the medical profession, in our courts, and even in our churches. When darkness envelops the land, minds, hearts and bodies become steeped in all the capital sins... sins committed in secrecy and darkness wrapped in euphemism and deception.

Truth becomes the first casualty. People water it down, stop talking about it, or deny it altogether. Prostituted, disordered acts are mistaken for love because only fools do not want to know the one, true God, and therefore, cannot know real Love. Human life is never sacred when God is not known, honored and adored. Animal life and the environment become gods...and the greatest god of all becomes the individual.

How long will the sin of pride reign supreme? How long does man stay in a perpetual state of deep-seated ignorance and confusion? How long will human life, made in the Imago Dei, be defiled, discriminated against, mutilated and murdered? How long will God, the Creator of us all be mocked?

Only God knows what the future holds. But one thing we can be sure of, brothers and sisters, is that over 2000 years ago, the darkest day in human history occurred; the vilest, most heinous crime ever was committed by those who would've called themselves "spiritual": Jesus Christ was brutally scourged, crowned with thorns, nailed to a Cross and murdered by "spiritual" people. Gentiles and Jews, alike. What these "spiritual people" were not able to see in all the darkness was God. They could not recognize God because they could not recognize Love. Pathetically misguided, they did not know that God Who Is Love is stronger than death. Only the Spotless Lamb, the Great I Am, could turn a "rugged Cross" into a Glorious Throne. Only the King of the Universe could penetrate the "depth of the world's sin, the depth of the world's weariness, the depth of the world's faithlessness, the depth of the world's passing fancies and illusions"... by the power of His mighty love. Evil will never triumph. Not 2000 years ago and not in 2010!

"In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." Canticle of Zechariah

Jesus is risen! He is truly risen!

Closing: A thousand thanks for all your calls and emails! Let's not forget to walk…even run in the newness of life that has been given to us. "Our very lives, transformed by Our Risen Lord, will witness, even without words, to the truth of the Resurrection. No obstacle is too much for us, since Jesus the Christ has blown away the greatest burden --- death ---as though it were the morning mist." No temptation, no sorrow, no loss, no setback…nothing is too much for us --- we have the life of Christ in us!! At Christmas, He came to share our life…At Easter, we share His life! Christ is truly risen, my dear brothers and sisters…Alleluia…now we have hope!

Until next week on Open Line, Blessed be God and may our Risen Lord bless you! Bye for now!