**EASTER**

Several years ago, in the church of Piazza Immacolata, a large friar began his homily with these words:

"Brothers and sisters, today this church is filled with beautiful people.

All well dressed and perfumed.

I see expensive clothes and high quality hairstyles.

I also see confident looks and no signs of humility.

Once you get out of here, you will all go eat tons of lamb and you will open, with your children, hundreds and hundreds of chocolate eggs.

Dear brothers and sisters, none of this would be wrong if we had even a small reminder of why we are here today.

We are here to remember the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And this is surely the most important thing in our whole religion.

In fact, if we are not deeply convinced that Jesus Christ has risen, none of this makes sense, and you can go and do the fashion show elsewhere."

The faithful, surprised by the frankness of those words, did not take long to feel in difficulty.

Someone was looking at the ground.

Someone pretended nothing happened.

Others sought confirmation of their surprise in their neighbor's eyes.

I'm not very religious but I remember that experience with real pleasure, because a man without fear, without the desire to indulge in the consumerist aspect of our religious holidays, had the courage to tell us the truth.

"If we don't really believe that Jesus Christ has risen, we can save ourselves the trouble of pretending to be Christians."