



THE PASTOR'S DESK

April 4, 2010 - The Joy of Resurrection

Dear Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! How can we experience the joy that should come with such an announcement? We can have so many natural joys: marriage, the birth of a child or grandchild, getting our dream job, our favorite team winning the championship, etc. We have so much more joy at these events because they are so concrete and immediate. The Resurrection of Christ seems so abstract and distant. We can acknowledge the joy of Mary Magdalene, of the Apostles, and of the Blessed Mother. We can understand how they could be incredulous with ecstatic joy.

But, honestly, our greatest joy on Easter Sunday may be in seeing our families come together for Easter dinner. This is no criticism. Rather, it is a reminder of the great joy we have in store for us in Heaven. As happy as natural goods make us, imagine what meeting the Risen Christ will be like. At the Last Judgment we will see how the suffering and death of Christ freed us from our sins. We will have a concrete and immediate experience of how the grace of Christ's Passion and Death allowed us to rise in glory ourselves. Let our participation at Mass today focus our attention on the Risen Christ. Let it be a glimpse of the joy we all hope to have at the Resurrection of all the dead.

The Apostles, were, above all things, witnesses to the Resurrection. When choosing someone to fill the office of Apostle left by Judas Iscariot, they sought a man who had been with the Apostles from the Baptism of John until the day when Jesus was taken up into heaven because "one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection." - Acts 1:22.

The resurrection of Christ is the central event of the Gospel. Each of the four Gospels has the bulk of its material on the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. Without the resurrection there is no victory over sin and death. As St. Paul told the Corinthians:

Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then

our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Cor. 15:12-23)

So, enjoy your Easter Sunday. But, remember that all joy in this life is but a faint glimpse of the joy of the resurrection. May we all experience this joy on the great day of resurrection when we will see the Risen Christ in all His Glory and realize that we share eternally in that same glory.

**God bless,
Fr. LaHood**

Greetings

Our Thanks go to the Musicians, Choir Members, Servers, EMHCs, Lectors, Ushers, Altar Society, Liturgy Committee Environment Committee, and other Volunteers, who gave of their time and energy to contribute to the beauty and solemnity of our Holy Week Liturgies.

We wish all of you a Happy Easter !
Fr. LaHood and Fr. William