

From Your Pastor

Resurrexit Sicut Dixit. ~ He Has Risen, Just as He Said. ~ Alleluia! Alleluia!

Human words have never been able to express adequately the mystery of the Lord's Resurrection. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, like the mystery of the Trinity, defies explanation and is beyond our human grasp. In the light of Christ's Resurrection we can only stand in wonder and awe, as did the first disciples of the Lord. If we speak at all, nothing will issue forth except the kind of praise and proclamation we find in the Easter *Exultet*.

*This is the night when Jesus Christ
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.
What good would life have been for us,
had not Christ come as our Redeemer?
Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave
you gave away your Son.
O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!*

(From the *Exultet* of the Easter Vigil)

Each of us has been touched by the Lord's Resurrection. In fact, we have already received a share in it. In the waters of our baptism we died and rose with Christ. In that moment, sin was forgiven in us; we were given a new life of grace in Christ which reconciled us to God; and we received the promise of eternal life in the community of love of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Our life now is one in which we wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus who will call each of us, dead or alive, to experience the fullness of that life in a resurrected body like his. We need only to choose to live in Christ for that promise to be fulfilled.

In so many ways, the life we have in the Risen Christ

can be like an inheritance we never spend. We have received a gift, but we do nothing with it. What a disappointing and fruitless way to live! Life without Christ is not only unsatisfying. Because that kind of living ignores or refuses Christ, the personification of God's love, it will always remain empty and sterile. We were born to live in Christ, because we were created to live in God's love.

Life in Christ has changed us radically and the possibilities now open to us are extraordinary. But we have to seize them. In Christ, for example, we no longer need to fear death. Oh, our human nature still reels at the thought of death; but when we choose to live in Christ the fear dissolves. If you have ever been in the company of a person who is with Christ as they approach death, you know what I mean. When I am with Christ, death is a gift and not a threat. If life with Christ can do that to death, imagine what else can be transformed when we choose Christ.

St. Luke tells us that on the evening of the Lord's Resurrection two of his disciples left Jerusalem in discouragement. They knew that Jesus had died. They had also heard reports of his Resurrection, but they did not believe them. They felt alone and afraid. But they were not alone. As they traveled along the road, the Risen Lord joined them. They did not ignore him or reject him. But they did not recognize him. In the end, their eyes were opened and they knew that it was the Risen Lord who had rescued them from their fear. (Cf. Lk 24:13-35)

Easter reminds us that the Risen Lord is always near us. It also reminds us of the free will that God gave us when he created us. Life is a choice – for God. Thank God for that freedom. Thank God for the Risen Christ who helps us choose. Happy Easter!



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay