

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith in Laity Corner

Readings: Jn. 20:1-9

Monday, April 2, 2018



He Lives, He Lives!!

Millions of Christians including Catholics will be attending some type of church service, during the course of today. During this weekend most people would have time to reflect on the death of a 33-year-old man who had affected the social and political life of the Jewish people during that time and continues to influence our lives today. The more we examine the life and understand the teachings of this young man, Jesus the more we realize that His life was to end and we are to suffer that same fate. I wondered over the past few days, how would Jesus feel as He watches our homeless and abused children, our politicians with *feet of clay*, our deliberate and painful killing of people because of their race or religion, how news is now used to fool people and sway their thinking, cyber robbery -steal people's money and credibility which vanishes without a trace. Just what would Jesus say?

How do we realize that He lives in our confusing midst? Confusion and fear existed in the time immediately after the death of Jesus. Here a woman who was not considered to be of importance in a patriarchic society, she brought the news that something strange had happened. She was there to see Jesus die on the cross and then helped Mary and others wash and anoint His body and wrapped Him in the herbs and placed His body in a rock tomb, with help they were able to roll the stone to the entrance of the tomb.

Early Sunday morning Mary is on her way to the tomb when she realizes

"And saw the stone removed from the tomb." (Jn. 20:1)

With fear and concern for what could have happened, she runs to Simon Peter and with terror, fear and confusion exclaimed:

*They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him.” (Jn. 20:2)*

2000 years later we recognize that the fear was unfounded and that Jesus told all that He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in 3 days. Not a human feat, but one that was not of this earth.

*“For they did not yet understand
the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.” (Jn. 20:9)*

What lesson do we learn this year about the Resurrection of our Lord, as the lesson learned last year will be different from the one this year. Let us think what it was like to die before Jesus' ultimate sacrifice..... Great prophets, kings, people of good faith... 'God fairing' people did not have the privilege of seeing Heaven. They died without the assurances, we have today.

It was not until Jesus freely paid the ultimate price – with His agony, and death on the Cross, that HE as God arose from the dead, to show us that death permanent in the days of old, will no longer limit humanity again. We are not only saved but have the hope of seeing God face to face. Let us ask for the Grace to be able to understand this concept. Death the earthly equalizer will no longer have humanity in captivity –Jesus conquered death. When our relatives and family die, this is not the end of the journey, all have transitioned from temporal life on Earth to new life with Christ. Yet, it is only a good transition, if in our lives we took the opportunity to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, comforted the sick, dying and lonely, stood up for justices in an unjust society, welcomed the stranger and people of other races, place God first in our lives and treated others with the mindset needed for their human dignity to remain intact. How well are you working your way towards eternal life and your resurrection?

He Lives for us only if we can say yes, “*I am trying daily to follow that path.*” Let us ensure that HE Lives, in our homes, our society and our nation.... Yes, it is our responsibility to show to all that HE LIVES...

May the joy of the Easter season rest with us and our families now and always. HE LIVES!!

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by
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