

Homily for Easter

Our liturgy tonight begins in darkness.

Easter begins in darkness. Easter begins in despair. Easter begins with a sense of defeat.

We see that despair in the women who journey to the tomb in the pre-dawn hours of morning. We see it in the oils they carry. These oils were to honor and properly prepare a body for burial. There was no thought of resurrection in their mind. Instead, these women carried in their hearts a void, a hopelessness, a crushing sense of loss and grief that is impossible to express in words.

We've known that darkness in our own lives. If you have ever kept vigil, at the bedside of a dying loved one, if you have been unable to sleep because of what was to come, if you have ever been overwhelmed by doubt or grief....you know what darkness is all about. We know the darkness of relationships that shatter and leave us broken. We know the darkness and fear of what the future will bring. We know the darkness in the imprisonment of addiction to alcohol and drugs. We know darkness if we have ever been paralyzed by hurt or ill treatment or been bullied or talked about.

If you have experienced any of these feelings, if you have walked the corridors of life in darkness, then Easter is meant to speak to you. For Easter is the celebration of Christ passing over the darkness into the light of life. Easter is the celebration of Winter passing over to Spring. Easter is the celebration of the Cross passing over to the Resurrection. Easter is the celebration of Good Friday passing over to Easter. Easter is the celebration of hope.

Easter proclaims that God's love for us is so strong that no matter what darkness we walk through, what fear we confront, or what death we experience, we will not be overcome.

On Good Friday Christ faced defeat. The cross blocked out the sun and evil conquered good. Hope was dead for there were no more options – no more possibilities. Yet out of this defeat of Good Friday comes God's final and perfect victory. Out of this death, comes life; out of agony, comes joy; out of the darkness, comes the dawn; out of despair, comes hope...a hope that no matter what is going on in our lives, God's love is more powerful than anything else.

This is what Easter is all about.

This is the feast of God's victory over all the
darkness and despair in our world.

This is the victory to which all of us who

are reborn in the waters of baptism are united.

This is the victory by which we seize the light of yet another Easter Candle and affirm that in Christ Jesus, the Lord, all things are different for His victory is our victory.