

Homily for Easter 2013

I pride myself on working very hard on my sermons. I am neurotic enough that I try to have any sermon I write completed by at least a week before they are preached. But I have to admit that I fell far short of my standards in preparing for this year's Easter sermon. No matter how hard I tried, how much I studied or how much I prayed, I faced a blank page. Every thought I wrote down seemed so shallow.

What does one say in the face of the most profound act of history? How do you fashion words before an event that defies description or commentary? What can any of us say that can capture and summarize the meaning of an empty tomb and the folded burial cloths in a place where only two days earlier a body was carefully placed and buried?

There is nothing in the human experience of life that we fear more than death. It is final. It is absolute. It is a separation from everything and anything that we know or have experienced. There is no return from death...no second chance...no alternative.

But this is what makes the Resurrection of Jesus Christ so utterly profound. For in celebrating Jesus' resurrection we are, in the most profound sense, celebrating our own resurrection. This is our faith. This

is everything. In our baptism we join ourselves to Jesus Christ who is our Lord. And “If we have died with the Lord, we will also live with the Lord.” Nothing could even begin to equal the magnitude of this event. For in Jesus Christ death is no longer the last word. Death is no longer the end. In Jesus Christ we can cry out: “Death where is thy sting? Death where is thy victory?”

On Easter we celebrate the greatest gift that God could possibly give to us...the gift of life...the gift of eternal life. But it is not a selfish gift. We can never forget that we have been redeemed for a purpose: we’ve been restored to life by Christ for a reason – and that is “go and tell the others”. “Go and tell the others” that all things are possible with God. “Go and tell the others” that there’s room for everyone in this glorious new life in Christ. “Go and tell the others” that all of creation are with us tonight...that the world is with us tonight. For in Jesus Christ no one is excluded...no one could be excluded.

And our mission on this Easter in 2013...let everyone know!!

Alleluia!