

**Monsignor Dennis Sheehan**  
**Homily Given on April 24, 2011**  
**Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection**

It's quite a story, isn't it? Two women at sunrise, there at Jesus' tomb. Suddenly, the earthquake, the angel like a bolt of lightning moving the rock like whisking a feather. What to make of it all?

Well, first of all, it's a story of contrast. The guards, we are told, are so filled with fear they are like dead men. So much for the power of this world. They lie in a trembling heap before the awesome glory of Jesus risen. They thought they were masters of it all, making sure the dead stay dead. On Easter, the dead one lives, and the powers of this world are relegated to death.

Contrast indeed. The guard shakes in fear before the angel of life. The two weeping women? "Do not fear." We're told that, after hearing the angel, they left in a mixture of fear and joy. Fear in the new. Joy in the hope of life.

But again, what to make of it all? Place yourself for a moment at the tomb that Easter dawn. Maybe you know something of what those women are going through. They hear the angel: "He is risen!" They see the door of the tomb agape and inside only bare stone walls! Are they totally convinced? Probably not. Neither, I venture, are many of us. We're mixtures of joy, hope, and fear every Easter. We want it all to be true.

So what's our Easter summons? "Go quickly. Tell what you heard. Then you will see him." You and I meet the Easter Jesus when we take the leap like them, risk the dare, and cry out to any and all: "He is risen! He is risen!"

We won't meet Jesus the way the women did as they ran from the tomb. But it's a vital part of my faith – and hopefully yours – that we have a whole host of meeting places with Jesus. He is risen in our prayer. He is risen in our Eucharist. He is risen, yes, in our trials, our frustrations, our disappointments. We will see him as those women did. We will see him as his disciples did. Not at the tomb or in Galilee, but in life right here and now.

Go then, says the angel. Go then, says the risen Lord. Trust that you'll see him if you really look. Blessed Easter to all. Christ is risen. He is truly risen.