

We Have Good News!

Easter Sunday

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We can sense a lot of frustration in the world today. Everyone is so tense, angry, and opinionated. News and social media is constantly showing us just how much death and division there is all around us. All we hear is bad news.

It is within this context that we Christians strive (and probably fail!) to celebrate Easter. For many of us, Easter has become just another little holiday to get through. We might not make a big deal about it. So what, it is just another Sunday. Yet, the message of Easter is our salvation. It is indeed the salvation that the world needs.

Christians have a powerful story to tell. While we often get wrapped up in the secondary controversial issues about doctrine and lifestyles, our central message is Good News. As Peter says in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: “They put Jesus to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.” Our central message is that new life came about in the face of death. That is Good News worth spreading.

Pope Francis, the current successor of Peter, always strives to put the Good News of our faith over and above the bad news of our church and world. He says, “when all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and

cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land life breaks through, stubbornly yet invincibly. However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads...human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection.” If that is what Christianity is about, why would we be embarrassed or ashamed to admit that we are Christians?

In one sense, the resurrection of Christ seems like such an anomaly. How could someone be raised from the dead? Yet, isn't the pattern of 'life-death-new life' the pattern of everything? It is a question of whether we have the eyes to see it. As Pope Francis continues, “Christ's resurrection everywhere calls forth seeds of that new world; even if they are cut back, they grow again, for the resurrection is already secretly woven into the fabric of this history.” Resurrection is all around us. We have the momentum already behind us.

Christians should be the ones who tip the news we hear everyday from bad news to good news.

Do I fall into the trap of perpetuating only bad news?

Of course, there is bad news that we cannot ignore. We need to face reality. But, let us remember that reality, while broken, is still blessed. “Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”