

4th Week of Easter C Cycle Homily 5-12-19

He is risen! He is truly risen!

Unleash Easter Joy!

Key question for the Easter season: Is the Lord truly risen?

In the first two Sundays we hear from the witnesses of the resurrection.

- **On Easter Sunday we heard the story of the women at the tomb: the two men: that He is risen; that He is not here.**
- **On the 2nd Sunday of the Easter season we recalled the story of that first Easter Sunday when Jesus appears to the disciples in the upper room and of a week later when he appears to Thomas and the apostles.**

Last week on the 3rd week of the Easter season we see the risen Lord : on shore up in Galilee with the disciples and speaking to Peter on the shore. The disciples witness that Jesus is risen and with them.

But what about us? Are all these stories of his resurrection simply just words, or do we believe and place our trust in him?

Maybe that is why the Church in her wisdom does not give us any more resurrection gospel passages but simply asks us again; “Are we living as if Christ is risen and with us? Do we believe he is risen and we also will rise again?”

Have you met anyone who is on fire with the risen Lord this week? Who really knows they are loved by a God, one who is more caring than a dedicated shepherd? Someone who is on FIRE with the love of for the Lord? (see if there any witnesses?)

Well I have. This past week I met with a family. Rodrique, the father of the family, and his two sons, Rosinblais and Faithbright were baptized at this year’s Easter Vigil. Rodrique said that when he went home after being baptized that night, he slept like a baby, full of peace. He and his two sons. Four weeks later he is still bursting with Easter joy. His wife is so taken up with their renewed spirits that she wished she could be rebaptized!.

They cannot put it in any formal language about the risen Lord being in their lives. They don’t use words like, Jesus is Messiah, or Jesus is the second person of the blessed trinity; or the Son of God. Rather they beam with the goodness of the Lord and begin to form words like a new born child does.

We need formal words and doctrines to explain our faith, but even more, we need the experience of the Lord risen and with us so that we can unleash Easter Joy!

Book of revelation in the second reading from the Book of Revelation. Tells us that we have been saved washed clean in the blood of the Lamb. The reading witnesses not only that Christ is died and risen. It also gives us countless witnesses who are dressed in white who have been washed clean in the blood of the Lamb, the martyrs who have died and now live!

But we, you and I, live in a world that that does not put much stalk in a life after death. Most people live for today and for themselves and maybe for their families, but for no one else. To live, die and rise for others is out of the realm of reality. Has anyone except Jesus make the bold claim of dying and rising from the dead. How can we believe what John says that there is a cloud of witnesses who have also died and are alive? How can we relate to such a claim?

Maybe we can take a clue from this weekend's special honor to our mothers. Mothers may think your stock is falling among your

children, but let me tell you about what the young men from BMO tell about their mothers. (Tell the sharing). 19 of 20 praise their mother. Two said that their mother has been both mother and father to them. I would like to share that out of all human beings, it is our mothers who has shared with us an example of new life.

Community womb. Comfortable, have all you need floating round in a comfortable world, all food and liquid needs met, oxygen levels ok, 98.6 degrees temperature-controlled setting. But imagine you are not simply living in your mother's womb, but in a large community womb with all your needs met. There are hundreds of other embryos with you living contently. However, every once in a while one mysteriously disappears. You are not sure where it goes. Fear and anxiety overcomes the embryos for a time and then things go on.

We are afraid that we might disappear one day. How would we live?

Finally someone comes back to us and says,

Do you know our mouths are not only for sucking, but for eating and drinking and speaking, and crying?

Do you know we get can get oxygen by breathing?

Do you know we can learn to walk and run and travel around the world?

And 95% of those who leave the womb get a very special person called a mother, along with a family, who accompanies you from the moment of your birth teaching you the basics of life?

Yes, mothers are the first who teach is that there is life after the womb. And the Church, called our spiritual mother, teaches us that in Christ we have life after dying in Christ, a life that begins in the womb of the church, in baptism, and lasts for all eternity

Tell story of a man who was baptized at the age of 70, ecstatic but cannot wonder why he waited so long.

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