

## Homily – Easter Sunday C

Beloved in Christ, we celebrate this glorious day of the resurrection. The Scripture is indeed fulfilled, “Destroy this temple and in three days, I will raise it up”. Jesus is risen from the dead. What a joyful day this is! What a splendid opportunity God has given us to live to see another Easter Day! “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.”

We celebrate the greatest feast ever known to men and women. We celebrate Christ’s triumph over temptation, over sin, over death, and above all, over the Devil (the Evil one). Christ has conquered; His Eternal Father has raised from the dead. He lives to die no more. His victory is our only hope. His resurrection is our only chance. He has reopened the gates of paradise. Adam and Eve have waited for this victory. God’s promise to the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob) has been fulfilled. All who have fallen asleep marked with the sign of faith will behold the light of the resurrection. Yes! “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). “O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?” (1Cor 15:55).

Beloved, Christ’s death and resurrection teach us important lessons. Life in this world is anything but permanent. We must therefore work for the permanent life. Through our baptism, we have already begun this journey; we have died to this life. It is quite unreasonable if we begin to look back, enraptured by passing joys of this life. What a terrible misfortune that would be! Our Second Reading (Col 3:1-4) encourages us to strive for heaven: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

The life of the resurrection transcends this earthly life. Our physical flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s kingdom. Christ’s risen nature gives us the first glimpse of what our glorified nature would be like. Our physical nature must be clothed with immortality. Jesus is clothed with glory of the resurrection and those who used to know him could not recognize him anyone. He had to reveal himself to them. This is exactly what Jesus alluded to when he proclaimed, “All things have been delivered to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” (Matt 11:27). Our knowledge of God is based on revelation, not on human ingenuity. Jesus reveals himself through his word and the sacraments. When he explained the Word of God to the two disciples, their hearts were burning within them; and when “he

took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.... their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight.”

Let your faith not be deluded by the controversies and disputations of our present day. Let not those who doubt the truth of the resurrection confuse you. Let not their empty show of human logic and deceitful analysis destroy the great mystery we celebrate. Jesus’ birth and life are beyond disputation. His resurrection appearances and so varied and wide spread that it defiles any reasonable doubts. Our Gospel passage (Lk 24: 13-35) relates that he appeared to the two disciples going from Jerusalem to Emmaus, to the women, to Simon and many others.

In our day, we see an unusual trend taking place. Christians have lost the original fervor with which the Good News was proclaimed and spread in the apostolic times. Our world is littered with liberally minded compromises, which care little about what God thinks, and commands. Peter defiled such odds in his own day and witnessed in the power of the resurrection. In our First Reading (Acts 10:34a, 37-43), he declares to the people, “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day.”

Why can’t Christians stand up and witness convincingly like it used to be? Peter and the others had an experiential faith. They “ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.” That role of the apostles as eyewitnesses is irreplaceable. We can count on their witness and that of the early Church. Even more, we can count on the witness of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. God touches us uniquely from time to time and we know it. Let us, then, go out and bear the desired fruits. Let us bring many to embrace the victory of Christ’s Cross and Resurrection. May the Paschal Mystery of Christ help us to experience our victory over all the liberal forces of our present day society, through the same Christ our Lord, Amen.