

Easter 2009

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the first day of the week, Peter and John “went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb...” (John 20:3b-6)

As Peter and John ran towards Jesus’ tomb on Easter morning, what thoughts must have been going through their heads? Until those anxious moments, they had not allowed themselves to believe that the impossible might be possible: their Lord and Master would rise from the dead. As they joyfully and breathlessly ran towards the tomb, they must have had a number of questions: How is this possible? Will He forgive me for denying and abandoning him? What will He look like? What will we say to Him?

As we prepare to celebrate Easter season, like Peter and John, we are filled with joy because Jesus died to give us his life of grace. Any hardships that we endure, we know that our Savior has already known them a hundredfold. Jesus wants us to share in His joy and grace. The Lenten season has been a special season of grace, as we journeyed with Jesus through the desert to the Cross. Just as he revealed himself to the Samaritan woman at the well and moved her to reveal herself to Him, Jesus has helped us to surrender our sins and our lives to him through our participation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In praying the Stations of the Cross, we reflected on the gift of his Passion. Through our parish mission, we were moved to meditate more profoundly on the mystery of Christ’s love for us. As we celebrate the Triduum, we spend time with our Lord and the apostles at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, walking with Jesus to the Cross on Good Friday, praying silently at His tomb on Holy Saturday and rejoicing with Peter, John and Mary Magdalen on Easter Sunday.

As a parish community, we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who will be received fully into the Church at the Easter Vigil. May their desire to know Christ, his Church and Teachings inspire us to grow deeper in our relationship with the Lord. We pray for our younger members who have celebrated the Sacrament of Confession for the first time and are preparing to receive the Eucharist for the first time on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We remember our junior high students and others who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the hands of Bishop Jaime Soto.

May the joy of the risen Savior be with you this Easter season. On behalf of Father Enrique Alvarez, Father Chris Frazer and all of the staff, I wish you a most blessed Easter season.

In the risen Lord,

Rev. Blaise R. Berg  
Pastor