

## Easter Reflection by Father Dave

(Acts of the Apostles 10: 34, 37 - 43; Colossians 3: 1 - 4; John 20: 1 - 9)

The Gospel readings during the Season of Easter are taken from the Gospel according to John. The fourth evangelist had access to different sources than the Synoptic writers, so his presentation of Jesus and His mission are slightly different. While he shares with the other three evangelists that Mary discovered the empty tomb (Easter Sunday), he includes a post-Resurrection encounter with Thomas (Second Sunday of Easter). Also, the Synoptics do not record a reconciliation between Jesus and Peter after Peter's denial, but in John 21 (Third Sunday of Easter) presents us with just a scene. Peter is told to "feed my sheep". Jesus uses the imagery of sheep and shepherd to describe His own care of the disciples (Fourth Sunday of Easter). John's Gospel lacks a sermon on ethics or the Beatitudes. Instead, Jesus gives one commandment: love one another (Fifth Sunday of Easter). Those who heed this command will dwell in God and receive the Advocate, Whom Jesus promised to send (Sixth Sunday of Easter). The final Sunday before Pentecost, we hear Jesus' prayer to His Father in which He prays for those who will come to belief through the preaching of His disciples. We are the ones for whom Jesus prayed.

Did you notice how often witnessing or testifying appear in today's readings? Peter calls the disciples witnesses, commissioned to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God. The prophets are said to witness God's forgiving love. Mary is the first to witness the empty tomb. After she goes to tell Peter and the beloved disciple, they need to see that the tomb was empty. All that remained were the burial cloths. And the cloth covering Jesus' head was separate, which implies an intentional act, not a body snatching. The first preacher of the Resurrection, Mary is named apostle to the apostles and patron of the Order of Preachers.

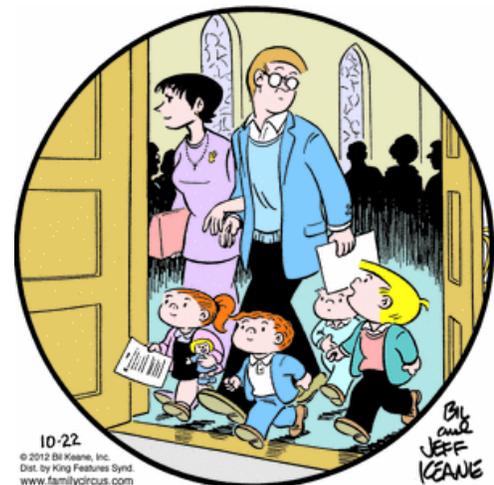
We are also to witness the Resurrection. We did not see Jesus walk the Earth like Mary, Peter, or the beloved disciple. However, because we experience the effects of the Resurrection, we see hope where others see despair. The forgiveness in Jesus' dying and rising brings light where others see darkness. Death-dealing realities like disease, divorce, addiction, or loss give way to acceptance, healing, survival, and recovery. When we admit that we are powerless, and that our lives are hidden in Christ

(Colossians 3: 3), living sincerity and truth lessen the power of malice and wickedness (1 Corinthians 5:8).

"This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad." Review your life since last Easter (2015). Name where you found new life because of your faith in the resurrected Lord. Testify to that truth. Witness the Resurrection so that others may come to see and believe through you.

On behalf of all of us here at **Saint John the Baptist** we extend to you and yours a most Blessed and Happy Easter. And let us continue to pray for one another.

Let us Pray for the Conversion of the World  
& for Peace



10-22  
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"When we sing the hymns,  
I think it's best for me  
to just be a listener."

## *Easter Reflection by Father Rody*

APRIL 17 2022, EASTER SUNDAY YR C-JN 20, 1-9

### EASTER SUNDAY...

The apex of Jesus' proclamation, let us read **JN. 2...**

**19** Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." **20** The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,<sup>2</sup> and you will raise it up in three days?" **21** But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Indeed today we celebrate His being risen...the temple was destroyed and on the third day He was risen. What if this did not happen?

Well, that's what they wanted to propagate that **IT DID NOT HAPPEN...**let us read **MT. 28...**

**12** They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, **13** telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' **14** And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy [him] and keep you out of trouble." **15** The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. **And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present [day].**

### **RESURRECTION DID NOT HAPPEN?**

How are we to convince this present generation that resurrection happened? Let us read the following post Easter appearances...

#### **LK 24...EMPTY TOMB.**

**1** But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. **2** They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; **3** but when they entered, **they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.**

#### **LK 24...JOURNEY TO EMMAUS.**

**13** Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called **Emmaus,** **14** and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. **15** And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, **Jesus himself drew near and walked with them,**

#### **JN 20...DOUBTING THOMAS CAME TO BELIEVE.**

**26** Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, **"Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."** **28** Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Loving Father thank you very much for proving them wrong when they said, 'He was not risen.' We are far from that event that took place more than 2000 years ago but here we are believing (**Jn. 20, 29...Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.**). You have graced your only begotten Son with life and us with faith (**Jn. 12, 44** Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one who sent me). In the end loving Father, thank you very much with this Easter faith and please let this faith always be zealous...***Christ is risen, Alleluia Alleluia!!!***

