

*Easter 2019 ~ Good News for more than a day! by Fr. Phil Horrigan*

Many of us have a morning ritual; we scan the front page of the newspaper, or check the early morning newscast on our TV or I-phone or I-pad to see what happened overnight.

First we want to see what's new, and then, with as much hope as we can manage at that hour of the day, we want to know if there was **any good news!**

But an interesting thing happened last night; the evangelist Luke announced that Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified had risen from the dead. I know because I read it from this place, and before the evening was over the church gathered here said it and believed.

The good news of Easter Sunday morning was announced last night - at the Vigil of Easter. We couldn't wait for this morning.

The good news was proclaimed, shouted out in the Easter Alleluias: it was good news from God, **good news about Jesus Christ** raised from the dead, and that means it is good news for us, the people of God, the body of Christ. If that's not the good news we wanted to hear this morning, then we are in the wrong place.

First there was the good news about creation: God created from chaos a universe for the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and the creatures of the earth; and then God created human beings, - in the very image of God's self, - **and God said "it is very good!"**

And I believe that **this creator-God** who brought beauty and possibility to the cosmic chaos **does the same for all of us** in the Easter mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. Even if chaos sometimes marks our relationships and describes the times we live in, the good news of this Easter cannot be contained, even in a tomb.

And there was **more good news**: just as God provided for the chosen people, the descendants of Abraham and Sara, **God provides, still today**, holy women and holy men like us who make great sacrifices for their family, who stand before the injustice and neglect that can sometimes describe our cities and our nations.

**Lots of people need to hear the good news that there is a way when there seems to be no way.**

**This good news for us started when** Mary of Magdala and Peter and John made the astonishing discovery that the tomb was empty.

**In that moment there was the disturbing possibility** that things would never be the same again. **Throughout Jesus' life**, every time he came upon darkness and brokenness of human need, he rolled away the stone and gave people back to a fullness of life. The stone of blindness, of sin, of being ostracized, of being wounded by prejudice and powerlessness, the burden of grief, and broken dreams. He released them and **gave them a remarkable new life**. My friends the risen Lord continues to do this for us and through us.

**And there is more good news:** this God is like an unbalanced lover who doesn't know when or how to stop being in love. For it is indeed **this God who invites us to this Eucharistic feast** this Easter morning, - I wish that everyone could know this joy and this abundance of love.

Is there too much good news? I think not.

**Today we announce that Jesus the risen one is among the living.** That was the message from the two strangers at the tomb who appear in Luke's account that we read last night: why do you seek the living one among the dead? Why indeed?!

He lives in all those who are newly baptized; in all those who seek to heal our nations; in all those still waiting for truth and hope and freedom; in those who mourn; in those who suffer; in those who search; in those gathered at our borders, in those who assemble here, and yes in those who are not able to join us.

**But the good news of Easter is more than a moment.** Mary ran to tell Peter and John. Later in the day the two disciples on the road to Emmaus would run back to Jerusalem to tell the others; the eleven in the upper room would be anxious to tell Thomas.

**Everyone, it seems has to tell someone when they have good news to share.**

Sometimes "the news" changes our thinking, sometimes "the news" changes our attitude, sometimes it changes the pattern of daily agenda; **but the good news of Easter simply and profoundly changes our life.**

And that, dear saints of God, is the great good news of this Easter day.

*Fr. Phil Horrigan*