

Pastor's Message

EASTER SUNDAY 2020



A Share in the First Easter

Have you ever wished that you would have been present at the first Easter? Have you sometimes yearned to experience what the apostles and other followers of Jesus did upon hearing news of the resurrection? Would you like to get a good sense of the circumstances which surrounded that remarkable reality which shook the world?

If your answer is yes to all or any of these questions, look no further than what we are experiencing this Easter to find what you are looking for. In the midst of this dangerous, disturbing, and destabilizing pandemic crisis, the Church is witnessing an Easter unlike any other — except for maybe the first.

To better understand this perspective, allow me to share with you the following reflection whose authorship is unbeknownst to me and which was sent my way by a friend this past week:

“The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their house. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they had heard from the women, that Jesus was risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really had won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God’s love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn’t seem quite real yet. Eventually, they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and

danger had subsided, they went about celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and love was the powerful force on the earth.

This year, we might get to experience a taste of what that original Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then, after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out, gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life even out of death, that love always has the final say!

This year we might get the closest taste we have had yet to what that first Easter was like.”

Consequently, inconvenienced as we are, displaced as we find ourselves, and discomforted as present circumstances make us, let us cherish this grace of standing in unique solidarity with the Christian community at the first Easter. Animated by the risen Lord, they emerged from their trials and renewed the face of the earth. With his help, maybe we can too.

Happy Easter!