

My dear people,

Easter 2019

Many of us say, that the people who know us best are those who love us most. Those who give themselves in love to each other over many years and who have remained faithful to each other, know each other in a way no one else knows them. Often times those we claim to know, we don't really know. We don't love them enough to really know them.

In the Gospel of John, one of Jesus' disciples, is always referred to as, the one Jesus loves. The 4th Evangelist (John) believed there was a special connection (bond) between Jesus and this disciple. Here was a disciple who was especially open to the presence of God's love in the person of Jesus and responded fully to that love. For the 4th evangelist, this disciple, is the ideal disciple, the disciple we are all called to become.

He is portrayed in the 4th Gospel as someone who, because of his special bond of love, knew Jesus better than any of the other disciples. His knowledge of Jesus was born of a greater love. He saw more clearly, loved more deeply.

In the Gospel, John 20: 1-9, he alone saw the true significance of the empty tomb of Jesus. "He saw and believed" Jn. 20: 8. On the basis of the empty tomb alone, he recognized Jesus was Risen from the dead. The other disciples came to believe this only after Jesus appeared to them. "We have seen the Lord" they told Thomas.

Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene first and she went to tell Peter and the beloved disciple. Fr. James Martin says, "during that intervening time, Mary was the Church." Interesting thought. What the beloved Disciple recognized, what he believed, what Mary believed, is what brings us to church on Easter morning. God has raised His Son to new life. This is the heart of our Christian faith. Both Mary Magdalene and the beloved Disciple had a deep love for Jesus, and they were first to believe. The Resurrection is God's resounding yes, to all that Jesus said and did, to all he lived and died for. Resurrection is the keystone without which the archway of our Christian faith would collapse.

In these turbulent times in the church, when our faith is rocked to the core, when we seek answers and there are few, your great faith and love of God are so evident in your continued practice of your faith. I know you have drawn strength from each other both in worship and prayer. Yes, we are in this together. Much gratitude for all your support, especially for the Sunday offertory and Annual Catholic Appeal.

Do take advantage of our Lenten Reconciliation service, with many priests assisting on Monday, April 8th at 7:00 PM. Let it be a gift to yourself, to go to confession for Easter. Holy Week is the greatest week of the year for our faith, as we live out the fullness of the Paschal Mystery. God's love for us; our love for God and each other. The communal washing of the feet on Holy Thursday as well as Adoration until midnight; The Passion of Good Friday, and a special "Stations" at 3:00pm; Holy Saturday at the empty tomb and the glory of Easter Sunday.

"Let Him Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us..." Gerald Manly Hopkins

On behalf of the clergy and staff, I wish you the blessings of a glorious Easter.

Happy Easter!

*Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

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Pastor