

Easter Sunday

Easter is the day of the Lord, a day full of divine love and mercy.

Easter is indeed a great feast because the Risen Christ is our hope. The hope of Easter is the hope for a renewed world, a world of peace and justice, a world of compassion and goodness, a world of mercy and truth.

Peter, in the first reading, tells the story of Jesus, beginning with his ministry in Galilee, his death and resurrection.

He explains that in Jesus' entire life **'he went about doing good.'** And for Jesus' acts of 'doing good' during his life time to be continued Jesus, after his resurrection, commissioned his apostles, who were witnesses of all that he did, to preach to the people.

Peter concludes his story of Jesus by inviting the people to faith and righteous living in response to the resurrection of Jesus, 'everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.'

In the second reading Paul leads us through reflection on what has happened to us through our identification with Christ in baptism. He invites the Colossians to ponder the effects of their baptism with Christ.

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above.... Think of what is above, not of what is on earth."

He is in effect telling us to revise our way of seeing and doing things. Because of our participation in Christ, everything has taken on a new meaning. We must learn to see it in the light of our destiny of union with God.

The Bishops at the Second Vatican Council addressing the relationship of the Church to the modern world commented on this exhortation of Paul; Col 3: 1 **'Seek what is above'**. According to them, seeking what is above implies living more intensely below. That is, in their pilgrimage to the heavenly city Christians are to seek and value the things that are above. This involves not less, but greater

commitments to working with everyone for the establishment of a more human world.

The point is the mystery of our faith provides us with greater incentive and encouragement to fulfill our role more willingly and faithfully to make the world a better place to dwell. (*Gaudium et Spes*)

As the resurrection of Jesus turned around the lives of the disciples we should let our celebration of Easter turn our lives around. We should allow it to restore and transform us in the Risen Lord. We should allow it to help us to embark on our faith journey.

Our celebration of Easter, today, should help us to live our faith; to live a life according to the teachings of Christ, a life of witnessing to his truth and goodness in our homes, communities, workplaces and wherever we find ourselves.

May the grace of Easter purify our minds, hearts and bodies so that we may continue to grow in wisdom, spirit and truth in the strength and the power of the Risen Lord.

Happy Easter to you all!!!

