

I encourage all or parishioners on Easter Sunday to read and reflect upon the Resurrection Gospels which I have printed here for you.

THE GOSPEL PASSAGES OF THE RESURRECTION:

- Read: **pages 3 to 13 (inclusive) of this weekly Bulletin** OR,
- Click on: **"COVID-19 Parish Updates"**, on the Home Page of this website.

Q. When I hear about the uncertainty of this time of pandemic and the suffering that it has inflicted on so many in our world today, I sometimes become discouraged and lose hope. How can I find a glimmer of light at the end of this dark tunnel?

A. The promise of Easter is the brightest of lights at the end of the different tunnels of darkness that we encounter throughout life. Yes, the darkest hour of Good Friday gave way to the bright new dawn of Easter Sunday. Since then, God's Word and our Faith history have taught us that all the challenges and the hardships that we have endured have always proven in the past to be sources of new opportunities for us and times of needed renewal. I am certain that this current health crisis will eventually result in the same way.

Some Challenges in Faith History

n In the Time of Moses

It must have been terribly dark for God's Chosen People to have suffered slavery at the hands of a pagan Pharaoh in Egypt. It was this challenge however, that prompted Moses to lead the Israelites through the Red Sea and into the promised land.

n During the Life of Jesus

There were many dark challenges that confronted Jesus throughout His time on earth, ranging from the threat on his life during His infancy, the hatred and rejection of the Pharisees during His public ministry, to betrayal and denial by two of his trusted Apostles and finally to the Way of the Cross and to His death. It was through all this suffering and because of His death that the world experienced the bright light of salvation!

n In the Era of the First Christians

The dark challenges that our first Faith ancestors faced were numerous including times of persecution and martyrdom, the complaints by some who felt

they were being neglected by the Church leaders of the time, the tension and divisions caused by differing opinions about the two natures of Christ Himself and the killing of the Faith leaders, Peter and Paul, to name only a few. Despite all these things, Christianity not only overcame these times but emerged stronger and more energized than ever.

n During the Renaissance

While all of Europe was experiencing a rebirth after the darkness of the Bubonic Plague which took the lives of over fifty million people, the Church went through a dark time of spiritual betrayal and corruption by some of the leaders of Christendom. Out of

this came the dawn of needed Church reform and the exemplary leadership persons of Faith like Francis of Assisi, Dominic, and Ignatius of Loyola.

n Today's Challenges

Many worrying troubles continue to darken our world today, including the one of which you speak and which concerns us all. Despite our fear, we continue to trust in the Lord's Providence and in the certain knowledge, through prayer and effort that, like the many other dark events, 'this, too, will pass!



"Do not your hearts be troubled."