

April 7, 2007

Easter Vigil – Conclusion of Triduum

Genesis 1:1, 26-31; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:14-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11
Baruch 3:9- 4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-18:28; Romans 6:3-11; Luke 24:1-12

While not a frequent occurrence to us here in Aliso Viejo, our night skies can be luminous with the vastness of the galaxy. A humbling experience, the vastness of creation leads us to humanize what is so unimaginably big. Wispy lines of imagination link distant stars and timeless shapes emerge. Dippers pour forth the way north, twins are forever bound, Orion flaunts fashion accessories, bears and scorpions prowl, the night is alive with the images that have guided travelers and entertained the settled. Gathered around fires big and small, people throughout the centuries have settled beneath their night skies to share the events of their day. Memories are reflected upon, plans are made, slumber eventually enfolds and one day ends so that another may begin.

Our coastal haze may obscure the stellar show, but tonight we continue an ancient tradition. Our fire will be lit and ancient memories will be given fresh breath. The constellation of stories heard tonight speak of light and darkness, of sacrifice and struggle, despair and hope, defeat and victory. This final telling of stories concludes the foot washing of Thursday, the bloody sacrifice of Friday and the waiting we have endured since the stone closed the Good Friday tomb. Within these stories we find the mirror images of our own lives. Is there not someone here tonight who has wondered ‘what is it all about?’ Is there no one here this evening who has never had to embrace sacrifice? Is there no one here who has never hoped that their children could be free from the scourge of terrorism, war, disease, divorce, crime or fear? Is there no one present tonight who has not had to pick themselves up from financial or personal ruin and get on with their lives?

Within these Triduum hours we have touched upon the truths that ground and lift us up. These are the prosaic constellations by which we steer our lives. We have revisited the roots of our heritage, the sacrifice of Abraham, the Passover exodus, the persistent promptings of God to be attentive to his words. In the person of Jesus we have looked into God’s own eyes and discovered that he not only loves us...he likes us! Enough to wash our feet. Enough to eat a meal with us. Enough to suffer and die for us. Enough to rise from the grave and show us we have nothing to fear. The stories and events of these days enflame the heavens with a new constellation, the face of the eternal God in whose eyes we are called to look. This night, the Paschal Fire leaps to the heavens and dispels the darkness. Draw near to these stories, warm yourself with the imagery, welcome the light that shines from the opened tomb. Alleluia...Lent is ended...Easter dawns!

Thank you for joining with our Corpus Christi family on this Vigil night as we conclude Triduum and welcome our newest members to our Catholic-Christian Family. Please be abundant in your welcoming of Julie Edgmon, Kristi Jund, Diane Marshall, Sadie Zamora, Elizabeth Ashley-Rupp Spring Allec, Donovan Block, John Eccles, Yvette Mikinka, Stephanie Olsen, Sydney Presley, Shelli Swanson. Shower them with your love and keep them in your prayers. Please note, as exciting as this evening was, tomorrow presents a whole different style of enthusiasm with our outdoors celebrations of Easter. You are most welcome to return for either the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. Masses (but tonight is REALLY Easter...so you don’t have to if you don’t want to.) All are welcome to linger and enjoy the hospitality, which has been prepared in celebration of our new family members. And in case it hasn’t sunk in yet...HAPPY EASTER! REJOICE! And remember, through the cross, the tomb, the depths of despair and the heights of joy...you are loved. FKB