

April 8, 2007
The Resurrection of the Lord - Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43 First Corinthians 5:6-8 Luke 24:1-12

If you had believed the ‘predictions of the last couple of years, the release of ‘The Da Vinci Code’, in book and movie format, would mark the dismantling of the Church. Hmm, so much for that prophesy. Assorted news channels recently hyped the Discovery Channel’s sensational portrayal relating the ‘discovery’ of the tomb of Jesus...supposedly including...the bones of Jesus and his family. (Interesting how it was programmed during Lent and the TV sweeps?) Once again, the talking heads suggested that the discovery ‘could be the worst day ever for the Church.’ (Wouldn’t you know, it would happen right after we finished our Phase One construction!) Once again, so much for that prophecy, most of the faithful seem to have yawned and gone on about our lives. While it was not noted on the news and no documentary was made of it, throughout the six weeks of Lent our Churches have been packed, our Reconciliation Services overflowing with people renewing their relationships with a forgiving God and our palm fronds of Palm/Passion Sunday stripped bare by people wanting a tangible sign of what their eyes cannot see but their souls tell them is true.

This luminous April morning finds us gathered together to affirm something our mere five senses cannot perceive....the living presence of Jesus of Nazareth, risen from the tomb. Today is not a DNA day nor a scientific theory day, it is a day for faith, for affirming that there is more to life than meets the eye or can be proven within labs and Petri dishes. We celebrate the mysterious presence, the tug, of our Creator to become aware of his ineffable presence...and to more firmly believe in the unquenchable life of Jesus. The empty tomb of Easter morning is in marked contrast to those who see death as a complete end, to the eyes of faith it becomes a door of mysterious transformation.

Granted, we humans thirst to solve mysteries. We smash atoms into one another to discover their essence. We unravel the strands of DNA to understand how we are knit together. We probe body and mind to cure disease and offer renewed life. But, some mysteries defy explanation or understanding. Why do people love one another? Is it simply biological or electrical impulses? Why would a soldier throw him/herself on a grenade to save the lives of strangers? Is it simply for a posthumous medal? Why do fire and police personnel risk their comfort for the betterment of our society? Is it just for a paycheck? Can love be bottled and placed on a shelf? Can fortitude, loyalty, compassion, integrity, sacrifice, be reduced to chemical compositions and swallowed like diet pills? Some mysteries remain beyond the sum of their parts, dancing beyond our grasp but always beckoning us to consider and welcome their presence.

This morning we are in the presence of a profound mystery, one that some say is a massive fraud or hallucination. So, is a mother’s internal instinct on behalf of her child a fraud? Is the gaze between two lovers a hallucination? Is the donation of blood merely a shallow weight loss technique? Mysteries do not imply lack of reality, rather, they beckon us to draw near and explore further. Their refusal to quickly give up their meaning might frustrate, but frustration can spark curiosity and discovery.

On this Easter morning, we once again proclaim that the tomb was empty. We chuckle at those who claim to have found bones. we are patient with those who can’t grasp mystery. There is much more to God’s creation than meets the eye, or that we can touch, smell, taste or hear. The presence of mystery enfolds us...and in it, we encounter the living person of Jesus. Happy Easter!

THANK YOU for joining with our Corpus Christi Catholic-Christian Community for our celebration of Easter. With so many people gathering for our Masses, please make sure you introduce yourselves to those around you. Those of you who are 'old-timers' here at Corpus Christi, please advise anyone who looks lost as to where such essential places like the bathrooms or drinking fountains are located. Bulletins are available on your way home, we have lots of events coming up in both Spring and Summer...and YOU'RE INVITED. Special THANKS go out to our Music Ministry for their selfless gift of time and energy in order to present our Easter Masses with such beauty and energy. Special THANKS as well to our Eucharistic Ministers, our Lectors, Child Care and Hospitality Teams for allowing our liturgies to be so welcoming and organized. Our Men's Fellowship has done us all a great service by setting up all these chairs and the Mass environment...THANK YOU MEN (and especially Marc Jordan for constructing out Altar platform.) To each of you who have joined with us today, may the beauty and mystery of Easter continue to enfold you throughout this day. As you go forth to ponder the power of the Resurrection in your life, remember, you are loved. FKB