



EASTER Sunday – April 21, 2019

During the Triduum, here at “Our Lady”, we have been reflecting since Holy Thursday on the tremendous love that Jesus has for all of us. We say we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus because the blood of animals in the Old Testament did not effect atonement for sins. When we say he gave his blood, we mean he gave his life. Greater love than this no one has. We are redeemed by the love of Jesus and he asks us to love him in return.

He accomplished his mission almost 2000 years ago, but still, there is a strange darkness in our land. It is the darkness of sin and corruption. It is found in our culture. It's found in our church too. It is not our Lord's way of life. We have come a long way since the Last Supper of Jesus.

You will recall that Jesus said, “Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood will have eternal life.” He did not say only Roman Catholics – he said anyone. In fact, there were no Roman Catholics at the last supper. Now we decide who can and who can't receive Communion. There is a darkness in our land. It is a darkness that can only be dispelled by the light of Christ - represented on Holy Saturday night by the Easter Candle. What is that darkness?

It is the darkness of ignorance and arrogance. It is the darkness of sin. It can be found in high places. It can be found in low places too. It is the second reason that God sent his son into our world.

The first reason and the most important reason is that God loves us. He always has and he always will. It is his nature - his love is unconditional. That is the beautiful and simple message of Easter. God doesn't love sin, he never did, but he loves the sinner, he always does. He always stands ready to forgive us when we come to our senses.

Someone once raised an interesting unanswerable question. What was Jesus doing between Good Friday and Easter Sunday morning? One spiritual writer offers an inspired guess. He suggests that Jesus went to Sheol, the land of the dead, to find Judas in order to forgive him. Pope Francis reminds us again and again of the mercy of God. We need to be reminded. It is true that the mercy of God is always preceded by repentance. God is willing to wait.

2000 years ago, a little boy was conceived out of wedlock. His own people accused him of being illegitimate as we hear in the Gospel of St. John. He grew up in a Holy Family. By the standards of our Church today, Joseph and Mary were not validly married. He was born into our world and our world has never been the same.

His name is Jesus. He is the son of God. He died on the cross. He rose from the dead. The apostles were witnesses to his resurrection and it is because of their witness that we are able to believe.

Reflect on what you believe about the events of these past few days and the events of Easter Sunday morning. We believe that Jesus rose from the dead. Can you do that too?



HAPPY EASTER!