

LOOKING THROUGH STAINED GLASS

A Column by Fr. Tom

April Fools? No, it really is Easter! Alleluia!!

On the weekend that preceded Ash Wednesday, I wrote a column, entitled “Love and Lent,” about how appropriate it was that Lent began on Valentine’s Day. At the Masses on Ash Wednesday, I wished everyone a “Lovely Lent.” At the very end of the February 11th column, I left you with the teaser, “Stay tuned to this column at Easter when we discuss the proper connection between April First and Easter Sunday.”

Well, it’s Easter Sunday and it’s April First, so what’s the big deal? In the previous column, I commented that “Lent is the season where we discover how we can love even more than we do today. Lent is the season where we prepare for the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus – the Greatest Act of Love this world has ever known!” Today we celebrate the completion of that act of love, the Resurrection! This is not an April Fool’s joke; this is what we truly believe because it is what truly happened. Today, we celebrate our belief that Jesus not only died for our sins, but also rose again to conquer death. Some might call us fools for believing in such a thing. In fact, people have been calling Christians fools since the first witnesses of the Resurrection. St. Paul, in his early writings explained our faith this way, “...we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom...” [1 Cor 1:23-25]

I believe what Jesus says in John’s Gospel, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” [John 3:16-17] I believe that God loves us so much that He was willing to die to save us. I believe that Jesus conquered sin and death through His Passion and Resurrection.

So, maybe I’m a fool for love – God’s love – and maybe I’m a fool for believing in that love, but I’d rather be a “Fool for Christ” than a man who knew too much and believed too little. To me, that would really be foolishness. HAPPY EASTER!!! ALLELUIA!!!

