

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Perceiving and Seeing with the Eyes of Faith



My dear beloved brothers and sisters, May the grace and favor of our Lord Jesus descend and remain on each and every one of you and your loved ones. **Here we are. This is Easter. The Lamb who was slain conquered death, rose again and is alive Alleluia, Alleluia.** As the solemn blessing of the Easter Vigil says, the times of Passion are over. We now walk with Christ in the joy of knowing that our greatest enemy, death, has been defeated, the chains that kept us enslaved have been broken, and the burdens that weighed on us have been removed. **It's a new life, a New Beginning for each of us, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Today's Gospel gives us light. To enter the Mystery of the Resurrection, we must stop perceiving, I must see. Let us focus on these two verbs which recur in the gospel and whose understanding can help us enter the mystery of the resurrection. This verb refers to a distant, short, confused vision. Mary Magdalene. She sees that the stone has been rolled away. Since nothing is clear, she will tell the others that the Lord has been taken away. We imagine Jesus as we want him to be and not as He presents Himself and gives Himself to us. This is how we fall into religious fanaticism, into the exclusion of those who do not see Jesus as we do. **We build ourselves a Christ in our image, an exclusive and incomplete Christ.**

The disciple who arrived before Peter saw it and nothing happened. But later, when Peter enters the tomb, he sees, and the miracle happens: he believes. He is touched by the grace of faith. **He understands that Jesus was not taken away, that He did not disappear, that His body was not stolen. He knows that Jesus is alive.**

See refers to paying attention, to contemplate with insistence, but also to encounter, to enter into contact. The disciple comes into contact with Christ. To see the Risen is to meet Him, to be close to Him, to spend time with Him. If we celebrate Easter, we celebrate this Joy of having seen the Risen One. Yes, we saw and that's why we believe. We have experienced His presence and now we know He is there.

Let us ask the Lord for the Grace to see Him in our lives, families, communities, and in each other, so that the graces of His Resurrection may abound on us and transform us for the greater Glory of God and the Salvation of the world.

HAPPY EASTER!

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