

Easter Sunday (A)
April 24, 2011

Today we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – the Son of God, our Savior and Messiah!

This earth-shattering event is an essential foundation of our Catholic Christian Faith.

It identifies us and gives us meaning in life.

It is our key to everlasting life with the saints and angels in heaven.

And it is one of the greatest things that we believe in!

In fact, St. Augustine who lived in the 4th century, says this about the Resurrection of Jesus: “It is no great thing to believe that Christ died; for this is something that is also believed by the pagans and Jews and by all the wicked: everyone believes that he died. The Christians’ faith is in Christ’s resurrection; this is what we hold to be a great thing – to believe that he rose!”

So today truly is a great celebration for all of us, [especially for those who have been preparing to enter the Church] for today we are given a newfound hope in God who cares for us so much as to send one of His angels to earth to give us an extraordinary message that Christ has risen from the dead!

This angel that God sent delivered a powerful message – one that shook the earth’s foundation and easily rolled away the heavy and massive stone that covered the entrance of the tomb.

This message was also one of purity in that the angel was like lightning and snow – revealing a light that swallows up the darkness of our sins.

This message struck fear into hearts and made men speechless and lifeless.

At the same time, this message was also delivered with tenderness and care for the angel who spoke to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary spoke with intimate concern for he had witnessed the sadness and distress that they experienced at the crucifixion and death of their friend, Jesus.

Lastly, this message was above all else a message of assurance and hope that Jesus was not dead; rather, he was alive!

And it is this hope that we are to make our own and do our best to live out in our own lives.

And so, what exactly is this hope we may ask ourselves?

Well, this hope is what gives people the courage to fight for justice and equality, especially against an unfair and tyrannical government.

This hope gives people perseverance to continue looking for employment in a struggling economy.

This hope helps terminally ill patients keep fighting against all odds.

This hope encourages a married couple to choose to love each other every day even though kids, in-laws, work, and the concerns of everyday life may seemingly try to pull them apart constantly.

This hope gives us reason to get out of bed every day and take on the challenges of life.

This hope is what Fr. Dave is relying on so that his absent mindedness doesn't cause him to forget anything as he receives 22 people into the Church.

This hope is about the forgiveness of sins in the waters of Baptism.

This hope confirms us with the power and 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This hope nourishes our souls when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

This hope removes all fear and instills us with joy so that we might seek meaning and fulfillment in life in such a way that we will want to run and tell others about the earth-shattering news that Jesus has risen from the dead!

This is the hope we seek...especially when all seems lost.

May we desire this hope with all our heart so that we can more fully share and participate in the joyous message of the angel of the Lord, namely, that Jesus Christ has defeated sin and death once and for all and he is truly resurrected!