

**SAID ED March 23, 2008**

## **Easter Sunday**

Alleluia! Christ is risen from the dead, Alleluia!

And the Risen Christ promised to remain with us until the end of time. (Mt. 18:20). We can find him in so many places if we have eyes to see and ears to hear him.

I see his promise in our midst in the many people who serve each other in our parish as well as the many ways in which our community reaches out to others reflecting this Risen Lord to others. I am thinking right now about the happy faces of the Fairport residents who flock to our Sunday Dinner program – and the many parishioners who prepare and serve the meals.

I see the Risen Christ in those who work in the Blessed Sacrament Supper program and the many grateful faces of the indigent folks who have no where else to eat. It is the same Risen Lord who inspires our parish to be the first Catholic community in our Diocese to offer its facility to the homeless people in the Rochester Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN).

The Risen Lord surely revels in his young followers who gather in increasing numbers each Sunday night to celebrate God's love for them at the 6:00pm LIFETEEN Mass. It is the same Lord whose silent presence listens and loves us in the many RENEW groups that continue to meet to share faith and support each other as we try to live our faith in deeper ways.

I see the Risen Christ in this wonderful community of faith as more and more people understand that the Church is not just a building but that "We are the Church," all of us with our many gifts and talents. It is the resurrection of Christ that helps us all believe more deeply that we are the Stewards of the gifts with which we have been blessed; and that it is in sharing these gifts that our community grows and reaching out to others in love.

Yes, Jesus Christ is risen today in the hearts of the men and women, boys and girls who are the Church of the Assumption.

Christ lives in our Church, for God's Spirit has fashioned us into the new presence of Christ on earth. We are to be the hands and voice and heart of Christ. Through us and with us, he feeds the hungry and comforts the grieving.

We are to be instruments of justice and peace, committed to bringing love where there is hatred, pardon where there is injury and hope where there is despair. Ours is not an impossible dream, for our Risen Lord has set something new loose in the world. He spoke of it in terms of a Second Spring (Matthew 24:32). (Boy, could we use Spring this year!)

Our living Lord is with us and in us, giving us a life that will burst into glory in eternity. In the meanwhile we lend him our hearts and hands and search for him in those about us, seeking not so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is searching for him and living in him that we find our way to eternal life.

From all of us on the Staff, Happy Easter!

In closing, a Christian one liner for Easter: “The best mathematical equation ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.”

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