

Easter Homily Rerun: April 16, 2017 - Fr. Seno



My beloved people of God, the forty days of Lent, known as Lenten Season, is over but must not be forgotten in a hurry. The resurrection of Jesus we celebrate today is the most amazing news the world ever heard. We rejoice because Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave and also because God has removed our transgression. As Christians, we like St. Paul, can have great hope in life after death because Jesus broke the bondage of death (1 Cor. 15:12-24, 35-58).

Easter brings great blessing to believers; our hearts are filled with love and gratitude whenever we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. The empty tomb is the foundation of our faith because “if Christ be not risen from the tomb all our preaching would be useless and our faith in vain” (1 Cor. 15:14-17).

In our Reading (Acts 10:34, 37-43), St. Peter emphasized the truth of the resurrection, as he himself and others saw it. It is our hope in resurrection with Christ that will give meaning and purpose to our lives. We are meant for much more than this life. He went further by inviting us to reflect on the fundamental truth of our faith which we very often confuse with less important things. It draws our attention and reflection on our mission as witnesses to the resurrection. A witness is a person who was present at an event, saw what happened and listened to what was said. The Apostles were witnesses because they had been with Jesus after his resurrection, ate and drank with him, heard his teaching and saw his miracles. To be Christ’s witnesses, we have to undergo the experience of the resurrection; otherwise it would be better to be silent about it. We experienced resurrection at the reception of our baptism. If from that moment onwards nothing of the old life has remained in us we no longer harbor in our hearts hatred, violence, grudges, envy, drunkenness, cheating of our spouses, living double life, e.t.c we can truly say that we are witnesses to the resurrection. The deeds of death must disappear and we must live like people who are really changed from their evil ways, going about doing good and loving others as Jesus did. This will give us the right to witness before others that Christ is alive in us. Nobody will then doubt our testimony, because it will be founded on verifiable facts and events.

In the Gospel, (John 20:1-9), John sets the scene for the resurrection by placing it early in the morning of the first day of the day of the week. Mary Magdala was the first to arrive at the empty tomb. She ran to tell Simon Peter, but her statement was not so much a proclamation of faith as it was a statement of confusion and fear. Peter and the beloved disciple then ran to the tomb (20:6). John got there before Peter, who stepped back to allow Peter to enter the tomb before him. The beloved disciple then peered into the empty tomb (20:6). They both viewed the wrappings, but only the beloved disciple believed that Jesus had risen (20:8). The underlying factor here is their “seeing” and “believing”, which gave legitimacy and credence to the resurrection.

So my brothers and sisters in Christ, the best way to bear witness to the risen Christ is by comporting ourselves well in our daily life. It is through love, compassion, justice and peace, that we can show that we are true sons and daughters of God. The resurrection of the Son of God is not simply a message offered to us, but also the new life of the world.