

## Reflection for Easter Sunday

Traditionally at the Easter Vigil Mass the celebration starts outside the Church building, with the blessing of the fire and the preparation of the Paschal or Easter Candle. Once the fire has been blessed and the Paschal Candle has been lit, the Priest, Deacons and Altar Servers process into the Church. At the door of the Church a Deacon with the raised Paschal Candle sings; “Lumen Christie” and the congregation responds “Deo gratias.” Be it in English “The Light of Christ” Spanish “Luz de Cristo” or Latin “Lumen Christie” the Deacon is informing us that Christ is the way the truth and the light, and without him, we will falter.

This year things are different instead of starting the Easter Vigil Mass outside, this year it starts inside the Church, there will not be the lighting and blessing of the fire, but the Paschal Candle will still be lit and a Deacon will still raise his voice and sing “Lumen Christie, The Light of Christ, and Luz de Cristo.” After we are reminded that Christ is the light of the world, we have the Easter Proclamation, the Exsultet. What will clearly be missing this year is the congregation, of course people will be watching from home. The Church building of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish and the other Churches throughout the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and in all or most of the United States will be missing its heart, the family of believers, at the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses.

Knowing what is missing this year from the Easter Vigil and the whole Paschal Triduum we must take heart and be reminded of the message of the Easter Vigil. The focus and message that we can draw from the Easter Vigil and for that matter the Easter Season is that Christ the light of the world has transformed us by this his death and resurrection. It is through His light that we discover joy and peace.

May we embrace the light of Christ, the Lumen Christie, in our daily lives. It is this light that has changed the world and continues to transform us. We find the light of Christ in the Eucharist and all the Sacraments of our Church, but this light is also within all believers. May we turn to our loved ones, family, friends, and faith community discovering in them the light of Christ.

We are in a strange and difficult time, but in this time, we can discover the light of Christ, in the words, actions and deeds of others. In challenging times, we can see the very best and the very worst of others. This Easter Day and Season is a time to embrace the light of Christ, the Lumen Christie. This year it might be more important for us as a people and individuals to embrace the Light of Christ and discover this light not only in the Sacraments of our faith but in all who walk as Children of the Light.

Today as we celebrate Easter we rejoice in the resurrection of our Savior and His light that shines brightly on and in us. We have spent a forty-day Season preparing for this moment in time and space, may we as individuals and as a community of faith rejoice and be glad. This Easter Sunday and this Easter Season is a time for us to embrace a moment of rejoicing. So often as a people of faith we are preparing for one thing or another, now that we have reached the end of the Lenten Season and entered into the Season for Easter, may we take time to rejoice and celebrate. This time of celebrating for us, this year is more important for us as individuals and as a people than in the recent past.

My prayer for each one of you on this Easter Sunday and throughout the Season of Easter is that the Lumen Christie, the Light of Christ burns brightly in your heart and in your life. I pray that this Light brings you and your loved ones much joy and consolation. Wishing each of you a joyous and Happy Easter.