

Reflection for Easter Sunday

Will it ever end? This question could be referring to the Lenten Season, Holy Week, the Easter Vigil Mass or the pandemic. Well, if you are reading this reflection on Sunday April 4, 2021 then yes, the Lenten Season of 2021 is over and so is Holy Week and the Easter Vigil Mass. But yes the pandemic that started in 2020 is still a big part of our lives and is still having an impact on the world.

Traditionally at the Easter Vigil the celebration starts outside of 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, followed by the faithful. At the door of the Church a Deacon with the raised Paschal Candle sings; “Lumen Christie” and the faithful respond “Deo Gratias.” Be it in English “The Light of Christ,” Spanish “Luz de Cristo” or Latin “Lumen Christie.” At the celebration of the Easter Mass which commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, the Paschal Candle and the “Lumen Christie” reminds us what this Easter Celebration is all about.

The light of Christ is something that we as a people of faith do not want to see extinguished in our lifetimes. There are many things that we are comfortable seeing coming to an end in our lives, things that we might have wished to of lasted a little longer. But there are other things in our lives that we would hope would end sooner than later. Just as the Seasons in this world come and go, so do many other things that are a part of our lives. Fall gives way to Winter, that leads to Spring, and brings forth Summer, and then the cycle begins once again. We see many things in our lives falling into the rhythm of the Seasons, like the liturgical year, sports, even the school calendar.

Of course, there are many things that have their own cycle and timing, and somethings are life changing but happen rarely or only once in a person’s life. Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Marriage, Holy Orders along with many other things in life mark an important moment in a person’s journey in this world. These once in a life-time events are part of a person’s linear journey in this world and in the next. We can also see other things that occur in the world that are linear and not part of a cycle. Such at the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Even though we celebrate the Pascal Triduum every year, we know that Jesus dead on the cross and rose from the dead only once for our salvation. There was no need for Christ to die and rise from the dead for every time and place, once was sufficient for all peoples and all ages. This is also true for our own baptism, we only need to be baptized once, there is no need to be baptized again, there is only one baptism in Christ. When someone becomes a full member of the Catholic Church who had been a baptized member of another Christian Denomination there is a need for a Profession of Faith but not a baptism.

The light of Christ in this world is something that we as people of faith would assume and hope would last in the world until the end of time. Our lighting of the Paschal Candle and the crying out in a loud voice “Lumen Christie”, “The Light of Christ,” is not proclaiming that the Christ is just now with us but rather He has always been with us and will always be with us. The resurrection of Christ is a moment in time that has changed the world and has changed our lives. Every year in our Liturgical Calendar there is a moment that we remember and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This event of Christ rising from the dead, happened as a historical moment but the effect of this Resurrection will live on in this world and in the next.

Even though for this year the Lenten Season and Holy Week have come to a close, may the efforts of our celebration of these events continue to impact us for the rest of our lives. I also pray that as we continue as a Community, Nation, and World to respond to and deal with the Pandemic, may we draw strength and peace from our recent journey through Lent and Holy Week. In closing I wish you and your loved ones a very Blessed and Happy Easter.