

# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

## GOD'S GREATEST MIRACLE AND OURS...

*There is a story told of a group of four-year old's who were gathered in a Sunday school class. The teacher looked at the class and asked this question: "Does anyone know what today is?" Well, a little four year old girl raised her hand and said, "Yes. Today is Palm Sunday." The teacher exclaimed, "That's fantastic! That's wonderful! Now, does anyone know what next Sunday is?" The same little girl raised her hand and said, "Yes, next Sunday is Easter Sunday."*

*Once again the teacher said, "That's fantastic. Now does anyone know what makes next Sunday Easter?" The same little girl responded and said, "Yes, next Sunday is Easter because Jesus rose from the grave." But before the teacher could congratulate her, she kept on talking and said, "But if he sees his shadow... he has to go back in for seven more weeks." The innocence and humor of children!*

*Speaking of young people, some kids were once asked to define Easter. An eight year old by the name of Mary Louise said, "You get eggs and you remember God." Another child said, "It's the day that God woke up." And seven year old Amanda replied, "It's when Jesus got alive." Well today, we do remember God in a special way and the fact that he woke up from the sleep of death and became alive again in the resurrection. Easter is the greatest of our feasts because we celebrate the triumphal victory of Jesus Christ over death and the grave.*

*The empty tomb on Easter Sunday morning is our blessed hope as Christians. Perhaps as the years go by, our faith in this central mystery of the resurrection is somewhat diminished. Maybe we need to look at things with the simple faith of a child! What does Easter mean for us after all these years?*

*Let's not forget that Christ's resurrection is a pledge of our own future resurrection as well. Saint Paul wrote: "If Christ is not risen again your faith is in vain...but now Christ is risen from the dead the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." Where Jesus has gone we hope to follow.*

*We have to remove the stone of indifference and doubt from our own hearts so that we can contemplate the great hope that we possess as Christians. A preacher once said to his congregation, "Easter is all about a four letter word-and Christians are full of it." The word is "life!" Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. Our faith is not centered on a dead person but on the Lord who triumphed gloriously over death on Easter Sunday morning. Let us all pray for a stronger and deeper faith in the resurrection. Today's feast should re-ignite our hopes.*

*A couple of years ago, a priest told me a story on such a strong faith. He went to give the last sacraments to a man who had been a very faithful Catholic his entire life. The man was in the hospital and was unconscious. His family was gathered around the bedside.*

*Knowing that often enough an unconscious patient can hear the voices of those around, they said, "Father we're bringing him back home today so that he can R-I-S-E." To rise and not to die; they would not use that word. If we believe in Jesus Christ then we know that the grave is not the end but just the prelude to an entirely new chapter entitled eternal life. That is something to celebrate! Happy Easter to you and your families!*

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Father Jerome*