

Message from the Rector

Dear Easter People,

Our Easter Season continues and new life “springs up” all around us. Unfortunately, so does COVID-19 continue. Easter is the promise of life so abundant we call it eternal. Easter shouts new life and the season of spring also blossoms life – through nature, despite the coronavirus. Has “new life” found me? Do I wake up in the morning and say, “Good morning, God” or utter “Good God, morning!” The choice is ours despite what we have all been experiencing since March 15.

The heart of our Easter faith is a belief in Jesus, who overcame death and rose to new and eternal life. We believe God is present and Jesus walked this earth to reveal God’s profound love for us. Life is brought to “life” through faith and relationships.

How do you define a successful life? We need to put life into perspective and balance. Do we take family and friends for granted? Do we take our faith for granted? Seriously reflect – and give thanks – for the following:

Right now –

- somebody is thinking of you.
- somebody is caring about you.
- somebody misses you.
- somebody wants to talk with you.
- somebody hopes you aren’t in trouble.
- somebody is thankful for the support you have provided.
- somebody wants to hold your hand.
- somebody hopes everything turns out all right.
- somebody wants you to be happy.
- somebody wants you to find him/her.
- somebody is celebrating your success.
- somebody wants to give you a gift.
- somebody thinks you ARE a gift.

- somebody loves you.
- somebody admires your strength.
- somebody is thinking of you and smiling.
- somebody wants to be your shoulder to cry on.

And God loves and forgives you – that’s a promise.

Ponder the following

Duke University did a study on “peace of mind”. Factors found to contribute greatly to emotional and mental stability are:

The absence of suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge was a major factor in unhappiness.

Not living in the past. An unwholesome preoccupation with old mistakes and failures leads to depression.

Not wasting time and energy fighting conditions you cannot change. Cooperate with life, instead of trying to run away from it.

Force yourself to stay involved with the living world. Resist the temptation to withdraw and become reclusive during periods of emotional stress.

Refuse to indulge in self-pity when life hands you a raw deal. Accept the fact that nobody gets through life without some sorrow and misfortune.

Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues – love, humor (especially now), compassion, honesty, integrity and loyalty.

Do not expect too much of yourself. When there is too wide a gap between self-expectation and your ability to meet the goals you have set, feelings of inadequacy are inevitable.

Find something bigger than yourself to believe in. Self-centered egotistical people score lowest in a test for measuring happiness.

Sister Irene Zimmerman, OFS wrote the following beautiful poem which truly captures the beauty and joy of the Easter Season.

*Easter Evening
At any other time
Jesus would have knocked,
listened for Come in,
and left again
if he heard no Welcome.
But not tonight!
Tonight no doors or walls
were strong enough
to keep him out.
He'd earned the right
to come on over to their side
where they were locked in terror.
He stood before them now
in risen robes –
a pillar of fire leading them
across the desert of their fears,
a beacon in the stormy sea
of their floundering –
and revealed to them
the promised land: himself.
Peace, he said:
Touch my hands and feet.
Take courage, It is I!*

Please continue to pray for all essential workers, especially the first responders and healthcare workers who courageously get up every day to return to the front lines. And we offer our prayers for all who have contracted COVID-19 and share our deepest condolences to those who grieve the loss of their loved one(s) during this time.

With the coronavirus still gripping our lives with fear, frustration and stress, I share this following closing thought

We could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, while others bright, some have weird names, but they all have learned to live together in the same box.

Trying to keep everything in perspective,

Fr. Greg

Humor from the Rector



“How much longer?”