

April 15, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

The language of Resurrection: I continue to marvel at how the Word of God has been made flesh and dwells among us. I continue to marvel at the presence of the risen Savior alive in our midst. I continue to marvel at how all creation is filled with the grandeur of God and how the ordinary becomes extraordinary and the physical and material points to and reminds one of the spiritual. The secular becomes sacred and the Spirit of God is imbued in all of creation, saved by the Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



In the common and the ordinary, I hear God's words loud and clear. The flowers in my gardens are popping up. The colors are bright and beautiful. The plants are maturing; new leaves are appearing among the dead ones. The dead of winter is being replaced and life is abundant.

As donations are delivered to our food pantry and people line up to be served and volunteers are busy answering calls; as a teary eyed woman smiled and gave thanks for the bus fair that she received; as prisons are being visited, and shut-ins are brought Holy Communion; as we continue to practice the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, God's word is spoken and the presence of the risen one is in our midst. "Lord, when did we see you hungry, thirsty or naked and feed you, give you drink and clothe you? When did we visit you or welcome you? Whatever you do to these least ones, you do to me." Yes he is truly risen. He is alive and present in our midst and the power of his risen life and love in us and through us still conquers sin and death, today.

All throughout this Easter Season, we are especially blessed to be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation. The language of the Resurrection is always clear and evident when the church of God celebrates the Sacraments. Especially with the Eucharist, all of us are nourished and alive with the Spirit of the Risen Christ. It is evident that we are growing as God's body, the church, and we are becoming one as the parish of St. Leo. It is obvious that the Lord is bringing us together to do his work and to share his love that shows no partiality and welcomes everyone. The Word of God once more is spoken, "The commandment I give you is this: love one another as I have loved you."

And then there is my wonderful dog, Clancy. Even when I can't see him, I can always hear him especially when he is thirsty. The sounds of "Slurp, Slurp, Slurp, Slush, Slush, and Slurp" echoes loudly throughout the house. When it comes to drinking, Clancy is not bashful nor does he approach timidly. When I hear these sounds, I immediately think of what our attitude needs to be when we approach the waters of our Baptism. I remember the beautiful image of the Church of God renewing Baptismal Promises at the Easter Vigil and those who were baptized. I think of all who are about to be baptized on these Sundays in Easter. I think of those who sign themselves from the baptistery or the holy water fonts on Sunday and again I hear the Word of God spoken. "Let all who are thirsty come to the water... Come and drink...without cost."

How is the presence of the risen Christ and the Spirit of God in your midst? How is the language of resurrection being spoken to you? How are you learning to speak it? How are you living it? This is the day the Lord has made. Let us all rejoice and be glad!

Congratulations to Juan Sanchez Juarez and Norma Reynoso Perez who are celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony today (Sunday) at our 10:30 liturgy. Juan and Norma are very involved with the life of the parish and they understand and appreciate the importance of the community and its value for supporting them in ministering the Sacrament to each other for the rest of their lives. We are all invited to the parish reception immediately after Mass in the church basement. church basement.