

# THE PASTOR'S POST

## DO YOU BELIEVE?

Dear Parish Family and Friends:

A blessed Easter to you and to your families and many thanks for blessing us with your presence this Easter. Our parish is better because you are here.

In the Gospel of Luke at Easter, we encounter the women who become the first evangelizers! They have an encounter with the risen and glorified Christ and what is the first response to their reporting? Disbelief. This can't be true. How can it be that Jesus has risen from the dead? No way! They refuse to believe.

If we are honest, isn't it true that many times we don't fully believe in the Resurrection and what it means? I do not mean to be offensive or scandalous. If I look at my own life, I have to be honest there are some days and times, I don't live life from a resurrection perspective. For example, we are facing some challenging financial times here at St. Brigid's (more on that next week) and I could feel some real despair impacting things in me like spirit and rest and perspective. A man said on the day of confessions on Monday, "I feel the weight you are carrying, you can see it." Is that living life from a resurrection perspective? No. It's not. It's allowing the darkness to take hold.

Perhaps we need to sit in that darkness a bit to better appreciate the light. This is true. But we cannot stay there. So the women needed to go to the tomb and leave it. Peter, in the Gospel of Luke, needed to go to the tomb to confront his denial and disbelief. He did not stay there. We are all facing a lot these days. For each of us, the days may be filled with concern and care about the sickness of a loved one, the fear so many of us live in these days, the pressure of finances (personal and parish), the loss of work, mourning a loved one, the pain inflicted upon us by another, our interior struggles, the battle of mental illness, just to name a few. There is a sober reality to these situations. It would be foolish to pretend we do not face these difficulties in life.

How we face them - that is the difference for us! We know Jesus Christ. And, yes, that makes all

the difference in the world. He is our reason for hope. Yes, there will be people who don't believe.

Yes, there will be people who doubt. Let them disbelieve. Let them doubt. Believe anyway. Have faith anyway. Have hope always. Why? We know Jesus Christ.

Now, take that vision to some of the darkneses that we face in our lives. How I approach illness, fear, financial pressure, employment issues, grief, and mourning should be changed. Acknowledging the difficulty is essential. Staying in the darkness is not an option for those of us who celebrate Easter. Like the disciples - those who believe and those who initially don't - we keep walking. We'll get there.

Notice, too, that they do not do this alone! The women go together. The women come to the apostles together and with others. They encounter the other disciples together. We do not get there alone. We need one another.

For those of you reading this, welcome to this parish of the resurrection - St. Brigid's in Westbury. For here, we know the struggles of the journey of life and we do our best to walk with one another through them. Even more powerfully, we keep walking through the darkness knowing the light of Christ is never far away.

Take a copy of the bulletin or look through it online. If you're already familiar with St. Brigid's, maybe it's time to start a new path of service and ministry (we have tons of them and we need you!). If you're returning to Church today, come on in - pray with us, celebrate with us, share life with us, walk with us and give our parish the privilege of walking with you and your family.

Thank you again for praying with us in these days.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

*Feather*

