April 14th Homily by Fr. Karl Schray

This is the Easter message. *Without Christmas*, Christianity would never have

started. **Without Easter, Christianity would never have lasted**.

But Christ was born, and Christianity did start, and Christ did rise

from the dead **and so Christianity has lasted**. And that, of course,

explains why we are here today.

The **Gospels do not explain the Resurrection**. **But the Resurrection explains the Gospels**. The Scripture passage before today's Gospel is the story of Jesus walking with the two discouraged disciples to Emmaus.

It was only when he sat down to share a meal and took bread, blessed and broke it, that they recognized who their guest was. Excitedly they said, "Weren't our hearts burning within us as ***he opened our minds to the Scriptures***" that predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer, die, and rise again to save us?

Jesus' body was glorified but his wounds remained. Why?

To remind us how much he loved us.

Back in the upper room, the disciples were scared that Jesus would not want them anymore because they deserted him. But Jesus reassured them,

Peace Be With You, and gave them the command to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins in his name. In other words, **they were to bear witness and so are we**. **How they needed to trust Jesus!** That is why Jesus said, '***Pray and you will be clothed with power from the Holy Spirit***.'

Lord, how can we be witnesses to your love for people? With a smile, a hello, a kindness, a helping hand. Be a friend and make a friend.

Jesus, I trust in You.

An old legend talks about a man who was lost in the desert.

He was dying of thirst. He came to a shack that looked like no one had lived

there for a long time. Around the back he spotted an old rusty **water pump**.

He ran over, grabbed the handle, and began to pump it vigorously.

Not a drop of water came out. He panicked. Then he saw a dusty old jug

filled with water ***with a message written on it***:

"***Please prime the pump with the water from the jug.***

And don't forget to fill it up with water before you leave."

He took the cork out and lifted the jug to his lips. Suddenly he stopped

and thought. If he drank the water, he would live. **But** if he followed

the directions on the jug and poured all the water into the old rusty pump,

he might get a lot of water and it would be fresh and cold.

Could he trust the message on the old jug?

What if it was a trick? Should he waste all the water and his hope of survival

on a message that had been written so long ago…?

Slowly he began to pour the water on the leathers of the pump.

Drop after drop, he poured until the jug was empty. Then he grabbed

the handle and **began to pump**. The shrill squeaking of the pump filled the air.

He looked for the water—but there wasn't a drop. He pumped again—

still nothing. Now he was getting desperate.

As he pumped one more time, **a dribble became a stream** and soon, to his

amazement and relief, cool fresh water came streaming out of the old pump.

Before he left, he carefully filled the jug for the next traveler and added these words: "**Trust me, it really works**."

The thirsty traveler learned that **you must get your heart set to give before you can be given to.**

Our Archdiocese is composed of 127 parishes and 27 missions from Astoria

to Ashland. Our Archbishop, Alexander Sample, has prepared a 10 min. DVD

presenting the annual **Archbishop's Catholic Appeal**.

This funds the operation of the whole Portland Pastoral Office and its ministries throughout Oregon.

Without them none of our parishes could function.

Please come next week committed to supporting this Appeal.

Jesus changes everything! Thank you.