

Easter Sunday (B)

GOSPEL

+ John 20, 1-9

On Sunday morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran to Simon Peter and to Jesus' favorite disciple and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him."

Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. They ran side by side, until the other disciple ran faster than Peter and got there first. He bent over and saw the strips of linen cloth lying inside the tomb, but he did not go in.

When Simon Peter got there, he went into the tomb and saw the strips of cloth. He also saw the piece of cloth that had been used to cover Jesus' face. It was rolled up and in a place by itself. The disciple who got there first then went into the tomb, and when he saw it, he believed. At that time Peter and the other disciple did not know that the Scriptures said Jesus would rise to life.

Word of God.

HOMILY

04-05-2015

GO TO GALILEE. THERE YOU WILL SEE ME

The Gospel story that is read at the Easter Vigil is of exceptional importance. It doesn't just announce the great news that the crucified one has been raised by God. It also shows us the path we need to take in order to see him and meet up with him.

Mark speaks of three remarkable women who can't forget Jesus. They are Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. An absurd project has been awakened in their hearts, a project that could only be born of a passionate love: «buy spices in order to go to the tomb to anoint his body».

What's surprising is that when they get to the tomb, they see that it's already open. When they get closer, they see a «young man dressed in white» who calms them of their fear and announces something that they would never have suspected.

«You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the one they crucified?» It's wrong to look for him in the world of the dead. «He isn't here». Jesus isn't just one more dead person. This isn't the time to mourn him and give him homage. «He is risen». He's alive forever. He never again will be found in the world of the dead, the extinguished, the finished.

But if he's not in the tomb, where can he be found? Where can we meet him? The young man reminds the women of something that Jesus had told them: «He goes ahead of you to

Galilee. There you will see him». In order to «see» the resurrected one you need to return to Galilee. Why? What's this about?

The resurrected one can't be «seen» outside of the proper path. In order to experience him full of life in our midst, we need to return to the point of departure and experience what in his life had brought Jesus to crucifixion and resurrection. Otherwise the «Resurrection» will be a lofty doctrine for us, a sacred dogma, but we won't experience Jesus alive in us.

Galilee had been Jesus' main place of action. There his disciples have seen him heal, forgive, free, welcome, awaken a new hope in everyone. Now his followers need to do the same. We aren't alone. The Resurrected One goes before us. We will go about seeing him if we walk in his footsteps. What's most decisive in experiencing «the Resurrected One» isn't the study of theology or the celebration of liturgy, but the faithful following of Jesus.

José Antonio Pagola
Translator: Fr. Jay VonHandorf

HOMILY

04/08/2012

B EASTER SUNDAY – THE MYSTERY OF HOPE

Faith in the Risen one means that we believe our life is just a parenthesis two great empty spaces. Basing ourselves in the Risen Christ, we realize, hope and believe that God is leading us towards the ultimate hope of our lives: justice and peace for the whole of humanity and creation.

Belief in the Resurrection means knowing fully that all immense majority of men, women and children who have only known misery, humiliation and sufferings will no longer be forgotten. Belief in the Resurrection means that we hope in a life in which there will be no more poverty and suffering and nobody will be sad or crying. Finally, we shall see people from other countries arriving by sea and being welcomed to their new homeland.

Belief in the Resurrection means getting closer with hope for so many people who are sick, chronically ill, physically or psychologically handicapped, and those suffering depression or tired of always struggling to just survive. One day they will be able to live in peace and total health. They will hear the Father's words: "Come into the eternal joy of the Father."

Belief in the Risen one does not mean surrendering to a God that is forever distant whom we cannot look into his face or feel his touch and embraces. We shall find Him in the Incarnated and glorious Jesus himself.

Belief in the Risen Christ means that our faith in a better and more humane world will not have been in vain. One day, indeed, the last will be first and the prostitutes will lead us into the Kingdom.

Belief in the Resurrection means that everything here that was left undone or became impossible and everything that was spoiled by our own negligence and sinfulness will,

ultimately, be completed by our God. Nothing that we honestly tried will be lost and what we gave up generously will be recovered.

Belief in the Risen one means that we still hope that all our happy moments as well as the bitter experiences, all the hurt caused to others, and everything we have done or enjoyed in our lives will be transformed. We shall no longer experience a broken friendship, an incomplete celebration or a painful separation. God will be everything to everyone.

Belief in the Risen one means believing that one day we shall hear again those words from the Apocalypse: "I am the beginning and the end of everything. If anyone is thirsty, I am the spring of the water of life". There will be no longer death or tears, no crying or any sort of fatigue.

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HOMILY

04-12-2009

(See homily 04-05-2015)

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