

Easter Sunday A/2017

The resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith. It explains why, through human history and in spite of all the crises the Church has gone through, faith in Jesus has never disappeared. If the church was just a human enterprise, it would have disappeared because of scandals and sins of the people inside it. But, because it is a work of God, it stands firm in spite of human sins and weaknesses.

The strength that makes the Church stand through centuries of history is the resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus, indeed, gives to the Church its meaning and its significance. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, there would not have been faith in him. Perhaps, people would have talked about him as we do with some important people in human history like Julius Caesar, George Washington, Gandhi, Martin Luther King or Nelson Mandela, but that would have stayed just history to remember and to read in books.

It is because Jesus Christ is alive and “the same today as he was yesterday and will be tomorrow” that we talk about him and gather today in his name to celebrate. We are not alone, but billions of people all over the world celebrate with us the resurrection of Jesus.

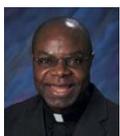
In order to share in the resurrection of Jesus, we need faith. Only faith can help us understand that there is nothing impossible for God, because he can give us life anew. Faith, I am talking about, is not knowledge of the things about God, but trust in God and his word. In fact, faith in the resurrection implies trust, confidence and hope that even in the worst of a dark night, a dawn is possible.

We should never forget that Jesus became a man for our sake. If so, it means also that if he is risen, it is for our sake so that we share in his life. That is why his resurrection is the anticipation of our own resurrection. What happened to him is what will happen to us. There is no doubt that we will suffer and die, but it will be in order to rise to new life.

That is the good news of Easter that makes us all glad, namely that we are destined to share in the resurrection of Jesus. It means that, no matter what we endure in this life, God will not abandon us. He will intervene in our favor because of his faithfulness. At that time, we will understand the truth that we did not run in vain. We did not accept so much sacrifice for the sake of our faith in vain. We did not live in a Christian manner with so much courage, boldness and sacrifice for nothing.

That is why, although we are surrounded with problems everywhere, we are not discouraged. We are stronger than ever and keep fighting until the end. The risen Christ himself challenges us to trust him in every happening of our life and to hope for our redemption. The resurrection of Jesus reminds us that there is never a Good Friday without Easter. Easter attests to the truth that we will never be abandoned by God, that with him, in spite of all the problems we have, hope is permitted, because hope never dies. Happy Easter to all!

Acts 10, 34a, 37-43; 1 Corinthians 5, 6b-8; John 20, 1-9



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