

## Fr. Martin's Reflection – April 17, 2022

### CHRIST IS RISEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

**On this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her daughters and sons, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.**

The above prayer is the opening prayer of the vigil for Holy Saturday night and is followed by the blessing of the fire symbolizing the light of hope – the light of life – the resurrection of Jesus.

We have so many questions about life – why am I tall or small, slim or plump, illness - recovery or death? Science has answered so many of these questions, but the one that science hasn't answered or is unable to answer, 'is there life after death?' This is one of the big questions and one God wanted to answer and the only way that it could be answered with credibility was for God to become human and experience death as we do, to enter the grave as we do, but here is where it differs; God the Father raises his son, Jesus, from the dead. This is what we commemorate, this is what we celebrate, and this is what our faith is built on – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise given to us by Jesus, 'And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.' (Jn 14:3)

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and acknowledge the hard work of my fellow clergy for all their dedicated and committed service to Mary, Mother of the Church Parish. A special thank you goes out to our deacons – your selfless commitment and love for your God and parish is unquestionable. Fr. Anson and Fr. Steve— thank you for your support and dedication to God and the parish.

A successful parish cannot be based on any one person but on the coming together of all its people. We are blessed in our parish to have very generous people who just want to do good; I'd like to thank our:

Ushers	Liturgy Committee
Eucharistic Ministers	Finance Committee
Lectors	Music Ministry
Altar Rosary Society	Altar Servers
St. Vincent de Paul	Those who care for our churches and linens & seasonal decorations
Food Pantry Volunteers	Sacramental Preparation Teams: Baptism/RCIA
Counters	RE teachers and classroom assistant and hall monitors
Legion of Mary	Knights of Columbus
Holy Name Society	

Please forgive me if I have omitted anyone or group, believe me it's not intentional.

I would like to acknowledge and show appreciation to our office staff: Larry, Cathy, Peggy, Patricia, Sean, Margaret, Carol, and Alfonso – they are so hard working and faithful to our parish and great support and help to me and I know you feel the same. We are so blessed.

May you have a wonderful Easter and I wish every good blessing to you and all your family.

*Fr. Martin*