

April 8, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

There is an old and favorite story that I like to tell and I am sure that many of you have heard me tell it before. It is especially good to tell during the Easter Season. Once there was a mother mouse and she was lining up her brood to take them out into the house through their mouse hole in the wall for the first time. As they go marching out, the house cat that appeared to be sleeping opens one eye and raises one paw. Immediately and instinctively the mother mouse sat back on her haunches and she BARKED! It was louder than any dog could produce and the cat went scurrying away. The mother mouse turns to her brood and says, "You see it pays to know a second language!" The mice continued on their journey in safety.



When it comes to sin and death and journeying in this world to the next one it pays everyone to know well the language of the resurrection. In the readings for the Easter season, we hear the risen Christ teach the apostles, disciples and all creation how to speak this language. The risen Christ speaks this language when he offers the frightened apostles peace and tells them not to be afraid. He speaks it to Thomas when he tells him to touch his wounds and to know that he is risen and alive and to believe in him. He speaks it when he tells the disciples to "Receive the Holy Spirit" and to forgive sin. The language of the resurrection is truly spoken with the virtues of the Holy Spirit as these virtues permeate all of God's creation and fill the hearts of all the faithful. It pays us to know the Lord's language of the Resurrection because this language sent death scurrying away and it keeps death in its place, takes its sting away and diminishes its power over the world. It conquers death and offers eternal life. Jesus speaks this language and he, himself, is the language. It pays us all well to know the Risen Christ.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. God's mercy is the language of Lent and it speaks the language of the Resurrection incredibly well also. Psalm 118, today's responsorial psalm sums this up well. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the Lord say, "His mercy endures forever." ...The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; Let us be glad and rejoice in it. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

And the one simple word that the Church uses that speaks strongly of the Lord's language of resurrection is ALLELUIA! We are truly a people of the Resurrection and Alleluia is our song. Let us join with all of God's creation and with all the saints around the heavenly kingdom and sing it loud and clear. Let us pray that we will learn the language of the resurrection better during these fifty days of Easter. As I have learned from trying to speak Spanish, if I don't use it and keep trying to speak it then I will lose it! Have fun practicing resurrection, speaking its language and rejoicing in the fullness of God's life and love for us all. It truly pays us all to know the risen Lord!

The Sacrament of Confirmation: Please remember in your prayers the 47 parishioners who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at a special Mass today (Sunday), 2pm, here at St. Leo. Receiving and living the sacraments of the church is a great way to learn the language of Resurrection. Congratulations to all.