

APRIL 4, 2021 – EASTER SUNDAY

Dear Parishioners:

Those alive are those with hope. If there is no hope, spiritually speaking, it is likened to death. So, don't we pray at every Mass, "Remember also our brothers and sister who have fallen asleep in the hope of resurrection?" We say that they have fallen asleep, not that they died. If you ended life in this world with the hope of resurrection, you are not dead but asleep. So, hope is the word of the living.

There are three motives of hope that we Christians must have.

First, God's promises give us hope. He has promised eternal life and the means necessary to obtain it to those who believe in Jesus and pray to Him. Although heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words and His promises will not pass away. According to the letter to the Hebrews, "Let us hold unwaveringly to our confession that gives us hope, for he who made the promise is trustworthy" (Hebrews 10:23).

Second, the fact that the Lord has a sincere desire to make us happy, gives us hope. God truly loves us. And this love is an active and dynamic love. In other words, it is love that does a lot of good for the object of love. That's why He wants us, the objects of His love, to obtain eternal and perfect happiness, the best and only good. In fact, that is also why we were created. It also appears in the first letter to Timothy, "God our savior wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth" (1Tim 2:4)

Third, a powerful motive for hope in God is the merit of Jesus Christ. Because of the work of redemption Jesus accomplished with His life, suffering and death, we have the hope of forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. Jesus' merit has opened up God's treasure house for us by giving us the right to receive all the graces we desire. So, the Lord urges us to have hope of all graces obtained through His infinite merit. The words from the letter to the Romans confirm this, "He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him??" (Rom 8:32).

Jesus' promise of eternal life, and His desire for us to obtain it, was revealed as love in His resurrection. It also is revealed that the fruit of His salvific work is resurrection.

The world is very chaotic. The pandemic that has been going on for over a year, the wars and killings that are happening here and there on the planet, and the violence and hatred that are going on here in the States, weigh on our hearts.

But we don't lose our hope thanks to the resurrection of Jesus. There is no hope in this world without the resurrection of Jesus. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we live with hope, and we can depart from this life with hope in our hearts. Therefore, we ourselves, who believe in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, are also the beacon of hope. Let us find the resurrected and living Jesus, not among the dead, but in us who are alive filled with hope. Also, despite the difficult circumstances this year, two new believers were born and added to our community last night. Even in the chaos of the world, the Holy Spirit continues His work of salvation. This also gives us hope. Even though the situations we find ourselves in may be difficult, we pray that the promise of eternal life and true peace that the resurrection of our Lord brings will once again fill our hearts with joy and happiness.
Happy Easter!

Fr. Don Bosco Park