

Homily: Easter 2021

***“A New Start”***

1. This past year has been a very challenging one to say the least – for some of us maybe the most challenging in our lifetime. What a gift it is that the living God will see us through this – if we open our spiritual eyes to **the TRUTH** that the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Blessed Trinity made man Jesus Christ has truly Risen from the dead – body and soul – for our salvation! **Every human being now has the opportunity for this new life and ultimate salvation in God by the grace of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.** But we must response with humble and generous hearts – St. Peter says, *Everyone who believes in Jesus, will receive forgiveness of their sins through His name* (Acts 10:43).
2. **Jesus has given us the gift of the Catholic Faith to bring this gift of redemption to completion over time.** This Easter let’s thank Jesus with all our being for giving us this gift of our Catholic Faith to guide us through the darkness of this current time with the pandemic and all our individual responses to it. As I’ve said recently more and more people are seeing this past year as a **“spiritual wake-up call”** to the human race and to each of us as individuals to repent of our sins and to live the rest of our days here on earth in a spirit of Faith and gratitude toward God for all the blessings that come from His loving Heart and never to take it for granted again.
3. **Wherever we are at in our Faith life, let take the next good step toward the Lord:** *in prayer, in practicing the Faith more fully in daily life, in getting back to the Sacraments and Mass if we have been away because of legitimate reasons concerning the CV risk, or maybe for not so good reasons.* To get back to Confession – if it’s been awhile since we’ve gone. To get our marriage blessed by the Church – if we have never done so. And to let go of anger and hatred, frustration and bitterness that we may have fallen into over the past year with all the crazy dynamics in our society at present. The Lord is offering us a new start – let’s take advantage of it! *He’s waiting with open arms to embrace us in His mercy, to set us free from our sins, our needless worry and anxiety, from any addictions or patterns of sin we have fallen into over the past year.* He is truly Risen and will always be willing to help us with whatever graces we need to become a saint. Let’s say **Yes.**