

Monday in the Octave of Easter  
April 6, 2015  
St. Agnes Church

The greatest mystery of our Christian faith  
is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
Just as we did yesterday, Easter Sunday,  
for the next week  
we will draw close to this event  
and ponder its meaning for our lives.  
We come back and peer into the empty tomb  
just to make sure our eyes haven't deceived us.  
But more importantly, through the lives of the first disciples  
we encounter the Risen Lord.  
We bow down and do him homage as they do.  
Their understanding and their faith grow with each encounter,  
with the passing of each day.  
We hope and pray for the same growth.

We do not linger at the empty tomb.  
This is not where God wants us to stay, to spend the rest of our lives.  
This is not the top of the mountain where we can take our rest,  
finally relax and take our leisure because there is no greater height to ascend.  
We do not and cannot stand frozen in time per se.  
The world has not come to an end.

Neither do we attempt to dwell in the past,  
try to re-enter days gone by,  
spend our time reminiscing about the good old days,  
try to re-capture those moments of miracles,  
try to re-live the times when Jesus got the best of his opponents.

What do we do in light of this development, Jesus' resurrection from the dead,  
this mystical change in human history?  
**WE GO FORWARD!**  
We may need a little nudge.  
We know that life from here on out will be different.  
We might hesitate not knowing exactly where to place our feet,  
not knowing exactly in what direction to head,  
but we go forward.  
We not only go forward but we look forward to meeting the Risen Lord.  
It is our hope and our desire that we will indeed encounter him.  
Our prayer? "Lord, help me to recognize you as you make yourself known to me.  
Our strength? Knowing that in the resurrection we behold the great power of God.  
Our mission? To live in the new life of Christ.  
To accept from God the gift of a new spirit and a new heart.  
To see and live life knowing we are promised a share in this most glorious end.

May our faith in Jesus Christ raise us up to a new acceptance of God's eternal purposes.