

Easter Blessings

The resurrection of Jesus is not just something that happened to Jesus more than two thousand years ago and will happen to every one of us some time in the future after we die when our own bodies will be raised to new life. It is much more! The Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality. .

We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, moving beyond the cross to the empty tomb, showing the fullness of our salvation, converting His three days in the tomb to triumphant victory over sin and death. Indeed, we celebrate His wonderful promise of salvation for all of us.

Everyone has times when the pain of our lives seems to bury us. We become entombed by the troubles of our lives and we can feel hopeless. It may be the loss of a job or long-term relationship or relative, or it may be the demands of our family members or friends, or it may be something personal or professional, but whatever it is, life has a way sometimes burying us and at times we can feel crushed.

Our first instinct is find someone to tie ourselves to. They say misery loves company. We often find others who are in a similar predicament and we tie ourselves



Father Tubale
Good Friday Mass 2008

to them, wallowing in our self-pity.

But as disciples/followers of Christ, we are called to a different way, the way of the cross. We are called to see the hope in all things. We are called to believe in Christ, who will take us beyond the cross. We are called to love others at all costs. Indeed, I am not saying that it is easy! Anyone who has felt the pain of life knows, it is not easy at all. But this is what we are called to be: people of hope.

Maybe we can be the one who lifts up others by being a person of faith and believing in them, even when everyone doubts them; by being people of love and loving others, even when everyone else seems to abandon them; by being people of hope and helping others to believe and love, even when everyone else seems to have given up hope.

The Resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves.

We pray for one another that this entire Easter Season, may we be people of faith, love and hope, and demonstrate by our actions that we believe in the Risen Christ.

Rev. Eusebio T. Tubale Jr.
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Signs of New Life

How we look for signs of spring – melting snow, puddles of water, green grass, robins and meadow larks returning, or frogs croaking in the ditches. What a welcome sound is the sound of a baseball landing safely in the glove of two students playing catch. And, oh the freedom we feel of shedding heavy coats, boots, and venturing out in just our shirt sleeves. Our winter has been too long, too cold, and too harsh. We believe that our patience was sorely tested. The motto here at Notre Dame is to ‘Struggle and Emerge’--- out of this winter.



Sister Vicki sharing her songs in Mother Teresa dorm.

Not being employed we have time to observe and reflect on life here at Notre Dame. We see many wonderful things. During this long and harsh winter we were impressed with the courage and generosity of the students. On our way to mass in the morning we would see students going to Varsity for breakfast – often the temperature would be 30 below or colder, Brrr! We were amazed how the students simply took these cold temperatures in their stride. We would ask them, “How are you coping with this cold?” They would smile and say, “We’re OK”.

We have just come through the period of Lent here at the college. Lent is a time of transformation, of renewal, of drawing closer to God. The highlight of our week is always our Sunday Mass. We believe that the new dress code, *our Sunday best*, has helped to create great celebrations. This is when we gather to pray, to sing, to listen to God’s word and to share in the Lord’s supper and to celebrate who we are as brothers and sisters of Jesus. It is a joy to be at mass with the student body. We find the students respectful, prayerful, and joyful. Parishioners have commented, “We have a good group of kids this year.”



Sister Clem at Mass. Our wonderful Sisters are both retired Notre Dame teachers.

Once a month the students have been trained to take the leadership of all ministries, excluding administering the Eucharist, within the Mass. They proclaim the scripture reading of the day, serve as acolyte, greet the people as they come in, and provide all the music for the entire celebration. On Palm Sunday which is the beginning of Holy Week, twelve students wearing stoles with a name of one of the twelve apostles, were part of the procession commemorating the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

In last Sunday’s gospel Jesus talks about a single grain of wheat. Unless that grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies it remains just a single grain. But, if it dies, it bears abundant fruit. Our motto ‘Struggle and Emerge’ really is about the grain dying, that is, our pride and selfishness dying. Our ‘emerging’ describes someone who lives for God and others, as does the Notre Dame Man or Woman. This also is the story of Easter, God sending His son Jesus to die for us, as the single grain and rising on the third day to give us life a hundred fold. At this very special time of celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may your own lives be filled with the strength and peace of His love.

Great things happen here at Notre Dame due to the love and tireless efforts of the Staff.

To all the Staff and Students we wish you ‘Happy Easter’.

With love and prayers,
Sisters Clem and Vicki



Sister Clem & Sister Vicki at Mother Edith’s grave.

