

Pastoral Thought April 2022

In this month of April, two dates pop up - Easter Sunday and April Fools Day. Easter Sunday brings to an end the penitential season of Lent and Holy Week. After Easter, we will be spending time in what is known as the Easter Season. This must be of some importance since it takes us almost to the end of May. It is through Our Lord's life, death and resurrection that we have been saved. Easter confirms and validates what was accomplished by Christ rising from the dead. In 1 Corinthians 15:12 Paul preached: *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then neither has Christ been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then empty too is our preaching; empty, too, your faith."* Christ overcame the darkness of death and made it possible for us to also share in his Resurrection.

At the time of Christ there were some like the Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection or afterlife. Today as well there are those who do not believe in resurrection or eternal life. To those who do not believe in eternal life, the sum of our existence is what happens up until the moment of our death. As Catholics believing in being raised up on the last day and sharing in Christ's Resurrection, what we do in this life determines how we will spend eternal life in heaven. Many of the practices we observe and sacrifices that we make seem foolish by those who do not believe in eternal life. In Matthew 6:19-21, Jesus tells us *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."*

So this month we begin with Easter and April Fool's Day. As we proclaim and celebrate the glory of Christ's Resurrection we also realize that living the Gospel and our faith might seem foolish to those who do not believe in the resurrection. But maybe in the words of St. Paul we are called to be "fools for Christ" (1 Corinthians 4:10). In closing let us continue praying for the war in Ukraine – for their dead, for the millions of refugees who have fled, and for an end to the destruction of their country.

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