

From the Pastor's Office

5th Sunday of Lent

The story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead is the great knockout punch. As we ascend to Calvary we have passed through various milestones along the way. We have visited with people like the Blind Man, and the Woman at the Well. All of their encounters with Jesus were life-changing events in their lives. Today is the knockout punch. The story is told in a very dramatic way. Jesus holds back. He is in no hurry to get to Lazarus. For the miracle to have the great effect everyone must know for certain that Lazarus is dead. From a distance, Jesus must have known that Martha and Mary were crying out for Him. By now they must have thought that Jesus didn't really care for them at all. If He really cared He would have been there immediately. They sent Him word. Jesus knew that Lazarus was dying. He never came. In order to get to Martha and Mary, Jesus had to walk through a forest of hostile stares and resentments. Over there the Pharisees stand delighted to witness His failure. Let's see Him get out of this one. The whole scene is actually set up by Jesus. He knew what He was walking into. He doesn't get a pass by being the Messiah in this situation. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." That message is for the rest of us. Even when all seems lost we must never give up. Whatever you ask of God, God will give you. I am not sure how true that is because I have to test it. Anyway, the great scene is presented to us. I always see this scene as like something from a movie. I can hear the director telling everyone, "Places everyone." They all stand in their place. Jesus stands before the tomb of Lazarus and there is complete silence. Then the words boom out across the valley, "Lazarus, come forth." Time stands still and we all hold our breath. Then the miracle of Lazarus appears in front of us. That is not possible. We all knew that he was dead. Are you telling me that now he is alive? I don't believe it. If I didn't see it with my own eyes I wouldn't have believed it. All of this is lovely for the people of Bethany but now it is time for the Pharisees to arrest Jesus. We have seen enough. He has walked all through the land doing his miracles upsetting people and we will have no more of it. Chapter closed.



With love,
Fr. Pat