

From the PASTOR'S DESK



Garden to Garden

Through all the scripture readings of the Easter Vigil, we travel from a garden to a garden. Beginning in the beginning, in the vast garden of creation, divinely blessed and loved. And now to the garden of Christ's empty tomb, where in the beauty of the Easter dawn, Mary Magdelene will mistake the risen Lord for the local gardener. But the journey goes on. There is another garden. The one promised to the repentant thief by Jesus in the very agony of His crucifixion. Today you will be with me in the garden of paradise.

Through all our readings, starting with Genesis, we look back on the flow of salvation. The waters of chaos are made fertile, the parting of the Red Sea ends slavery and gives newness of life to the children of Abraham. The psalmist gives the invitation to draw water from the well of salvation. The prophets promise divine life to water the earth, to give seeds to the Sower, and bread for the eater. St. Paul proclaims that through the waters of Baptism, we are not just celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord but have actually entered into it. We are warned not to forsake the fountain of living water but as the deer yearns for the running streams, so our souls thirst for the living God.

In the light of Christ, we have looked back on salvation history. We have proclaimed Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega. It is from the position of the Omega that we see all things in a new light.

We preach the incoming of a whole new creation within this old world: like new wine in old wineskins. Jesus' Resurrection is the focal point of divine creativity, of an eighth day of creation: death-defying, sin-forgiving, healing, restoring, elevating, and raising up to newness of life.

As Jesus said to Martha before He raised Lazarus: I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, though they die, will live.

In the Gospel of the Vigil Mass, the holy women at the tomb are instructed by the angel to turn away from the place of death and all that is deadly. And turning around, they find, coming to meet them, the risen Lord.

Fr. Hernan Cely

Pastor

