

Easter Sunday Homily - Jn 20:1-18  
By: Fr. Paul Magyar

Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead, however no one except Christ himself is a witness to the actual process of His resurrection. There are no other eye witnesses to the resurrection itself. When Jesus dies on the cross, God the Father cuts himself off from the Hebraic understanding as the “puller of strings” in peoples lives. Jesus feels this separation which is why he says: “my God why have you forsaken me ?” With the reality of the resurrection Christ is now present in every eucharist, every sacrament in everyone’s soul all at the same time. Jesus rescues all the souls from hades and bridges heaven with earth.

Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and the linen wrappings neatly folded on one side showing that the chaos of death has been conquered by the power of order, life and love. Mary Magdalene thinks that Jesus’ body has been stolen and tells Peter and John. John runs to the tomb and peers in and believes in the resurrection because the swaddling cloth has preserved the contours of Jesus’ body offering visual evidence of a resurrection. Jesus when he was born was also wrapped in swaddling cloth.

The disciples don’t fully understand the resurrection at this point because their minds have not been enlightened by Christ as they will be at pentecost. The rest of the disciples do not believe the report of the women and of Peter and John. This lack of belief shows that the resurrection cannot be an illusion of a community that had been eagerly awaiting such a thing to happen.

If the women and the disciples all believed and understood right away the mystery of the resurrection then it would seem all made up. However that is not the case. It takes the disciples weeks and Jesus appearing to them several times before they all finally believe that Jesus has been resurrected.

Jesus’ resurrection is what all of Christianity is founded upon. Without the resurrection there cannot be a Christianity. Resuscitation is what Lazarus had. Lazarus is raised from the dead and lives his life as healthy Lazarus until an advanced age. Resuscitation is not resurrection. Resurrection is a change in the life and form of the one resurrected. Jesus is not back to his regular human form, rather much more, He is now the source of life for all humanity and the universe itself.

Blessed Easter for Everyone ! Praying for all of you  
Fr. Paul Magyar