

2 Easter B

April 11, 2021

St. Patrick

On the holiest night of the church's year, at the start of the Easter Vigil, I placed the five large grains into the Easter candle and prayed, as the church instructed me: **“By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen.”**

“Glorious wounds”—Those two words just don't seem to go together. And yet, Friends, we won't understand the Easter mystery until we can fit together “glorious” with “wounds.”

It was the first thing the Risen Jesus did for his disciples on the night of that first Easter Sunday.

“Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.”

“He showed them his hands and his side.” That was the first thing the Risen Jesus did when he appeared before his disciples. Now, think about it for a moment. Jesus' risen body—it's glorified, totally triumphant over the grave! When Jesus gave a loud cry on the cross and then breathed his last, his body had been battered, beaten, and unmercifully pinned to the wood of the cross. In his risen body, however, all these were wiped clean: smooth, beautiful and alive!

But those five wounds stayed—the nail marks in his hands and feet, and the slit opened in his side. And, the church calls them his “glorious wounds.”

St. Patrick's: We all have our wounds, don't we? From broken relationships, unfulfilled dreams, setbacks in our life, tragedies, or injuries. Perhaps some wounds came from the scourge of this pandemic; others, the result of our own mistakes, even sins.

Some of our wounds may be still bleeding, or festering infection within our soul.

We live with these wounds. They may have healed, but the scars are still there—and their memories surface again and again. They are part of our lives. Yet, let's face it: We'd rather not look at them too closely, and certainly not talk about them (1).

It was the first thing Jesus showed his disciples that first Easter night. He showed them the scars of his wounds. It just doesn't make sense! Is that any way to run a resurrection?

St. Patrick's: I don't like to dwell on my wounds. And yet, the Risen Jesus invites me—*us!*—to share with him *our* wounds, letting him wrap them in his Easter glory. He can anoint them with the balm of his healing. And, I've been surprised how Jesus enables us to be of service and support to others who suffer from similar wounds. “**Glorious wounds,**” indeed!

This Easter, take some time with Jesus and compare wounds (2). He may even use *our* wounds to blossom in his Easter radiance. Remember--His wounds, too, blossomed—and became glorious!

(1) See Bishop Ken Untener, The Little White Book, Diocese of Saginaw, 2004, p. 9 (unnumbered).

(2) Ibid.

General Intercessions

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter B

Strengthen the faith of all the baptized, and help us in our unbelief; we pray to you, O Lord—

As the early church shared their property freely with those in need, give us generous spirits, tied with justice and love, in responding to those who lack basic needs; we pray to you, O Lord—

Shower your grace, blessings and protection upon Muslims as they begin this week *Ramadan*; we pray to you, O Lord—

Heal divisions in your Church, and prosper reconciliation among peoples in conflict; we pray to you, O Lord—

Inspire scientists, medical researches, and health-care workers in their efforts to stop the spread of the coronavirus; we pray to you, O Lord--

Raise to new life all who have died with their hope fixed on your promise, especially as we pray for “Chuck” Flynn, and all who have died from Covid-19; we pray to you, O Lord—