

Easter C

April 17, 2022

St. Patrick

So the two angels told the women at the tomb on that first Easter morning. **“He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you...that the Son of Man *must* be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”**

It just won the Best Movie of the Year award—the movie named CODA. I wasn’t surprised that it won. I thought it was excellent. It’s about a family in which both parents are deaf, as well as a grown son. Only their daughter can hear.

Through much of the movie, the family communicated by means of sign language. Now, Friends, this Easter morning: Do you know the sign language for “Jesus”?

It’s touching the palm of each hand, taking note how Jesus not only was nailed to the cross, but in his Easter victory, he kept the nail marks.

I’ll be candid with you. I would have thought that when Jesus was raised from the grave, valiantly victorious, well—his skin would be smooth, fresh. Instead, the Risen Jesus kept the scars of the nail marks in his hands, and the scar of his sliced side.

Is that any way to run a resurrection?

On second thought, Friends, a smooth-skinned Risen Jesus would only connect with those whose lives have gone smoothly, with no bumps along the way, and certainly no scars.

As the two angels made clear that first Easter: **“Remember how Jesus told you...that the Son of Man *must* be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.”**

Oh, yes—a Risen Jesus still with his nail marks, still with his scarred side...That Jesus has something to share with those of us with scars. And many of us have our wounds, don’t we? From broken relationships, unfulfilled dreams, setbacks in our life, tragedies, or injuries. Perhaps some wounds have come from the assault of this pandemic; others, the result of our own mistakes, even sins.

Some of our wounds now may be scars. Others, they're still bleeding, or festering infection within our soul.

The Risen Jesus invites 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.

Forty days of Lent. Now, fifty days of Easter. This Easter season, take some time with Jesus and compare wounds (1). He may even use *our* wounds to blossom in his Easter radiance. Remember--his wounds, too, blossomed—and can bring us to a new, fresh life!

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

General Intercessions

Easter

April 17, 2022

Let hymns of Easter joy and psalms of hope echo within our homes and throughout our world in this time of crises; we pray to you, O Lord—

Bless Toby on this Easter evening of her Confirmation and Eucharist; keep her a strong disciple of Jesus; we pray to you, O Lord—

Release our trapped hearts from fear, O God, and fill your church with boldness, ever blossoming anew; we pray to you, O Lord—

Give Easter hope to the people of Ukraine; free them from the scourge of an unjust war; we pray to you, O Lord—

Bless our families with reverence and care for each other; and, give a sense of your presence to those living alone; we pray to you, O Lord—

Bring all the faithful departed into everlasting life, especially Angela Andreuccetti, all our loved ones, and our deceased from within St. Patrick's Parish; we pray to you, O Lord—

