

The Easter Vigil 2009

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost +

On this most Holy Night our Lord passed over from death to life and carried with Him all of humanity. When we heard the Exultet sung those words echoed through the ages. It is our song of praise and thanksgiving, the celebration of the Christian Passover. We have passed from death to life.

It is for that reason that this night we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and we renew our own Baptismal Vows. Perhaps we can understand in some way the events of this night by considering the intimate connection between the Incarnation and Holy Baptism.

I hope you could all see how the Water of Baptism was blessed this night. The Paschal Candle, the symbol of Christ, the symbol of the light of Christ was plunged into the water three times. *I bless thee O creature of water, by the living God and True God, by the Holy God.* This blessing particular to the Easter Vigil service, blesses the water to be used in Baptism with both the words of blessing and the symbolism of the plunging of the candle into the water.

We are to understand this as pointing towards the reality of the Incarnation. That Jesus became man lived a human life and died a human death for us and for our salvation. It is in Him that heaven and earth are reunited; it is because of His Holy and Complete Sacrifice that we are saved and set free. It is the result of the Incarnation, God with us, sharing our time and space, that we can celebrate the Sacraments of the Church.

What Jesus did for us was to be the Sacrament of God. (The outward and visible sign of the inward and invisible Will of God)

As with all Sacramental Celebrations we are to be changed. Our very nature as human beings are changed each time we celebrate a Sacrament. And the celebration of this night is to elicit the most profound change upon us and upon the world.

When we pick a newspaper, listen to the radio or television, we are constantly being informed of the latest crisis. The difficulty of the slowed economy, the need for change in our buying behavior and in our habits of consumption and saving are all clearly noted as the most important crisis for the world today.

Nonsense!

We do not have a credit crisis, we have a sin crisis.

What we see in our economy

What we see in the wars that plague our world

What we see in the poverty and need of our brothers and sisters are not the result of a monetary crisis

It is the result of sin.

We will recover from this momentary monetary crisis. We will be told that equilibrium has again been found and people will continue to live as if they are in charge of their own destiny.

They will do so because they not have dealt with the real crisis.

The sin crisis

We will not find the real equilibrium, we will not find peace, the world will not be healed, and we will remain in the dark. Until we recognize that we can not pay the debt of Adam's Sin.

And we do not have to.

And that is the Good News of this Night - the reality of Resurrection the Great Work of God - heaven and earth, what is eternal and what is created have been reunited.

The debt has been paid, the world is being healed and real peace and prosperity are possible for us and for the entire world. All we need to do is wake up tomorrow morning and remember the events of this night.

Remember the promises we made, the Sacraments we celebrated and focus not on the difficulty we perceive in the here and now, but in the promise of eternity given to us by the Incarnation, Death and Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, the Lord is Risen
The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia