

3 Sunday Easter A 2017

April 29-30

Frazeo/Callaway

You who are parents, you know that some things are easier to pass on to your kids than others. Take for example transportation. A sixteen-year-old is willing to accept the technology in automobiles without question. They have no need to discover it for themselves. They don't insist on riding horses until they have perfected electronics and combustion engines.

Contrast this to dating. Parents and grandparents and even priests have accumulated enough wisdom to save a broken heart, an unwanted pregnancy, and a failed marriage. Many young adults do not avail themselves to this wisdom. Rather they choose to discover it all for themselves—often this school of hard knocks is time-consuming and expensive! Some things are easier to pass on than others.

In the gospel, the women went to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. "They came back and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive!" (Luke 24:13-35) Nobody believed them! It's not easy to pass on faith, even you have met with angels!

Lent is a season of penance. I heard confessions in other parishes in the area. This year was no different; I listened to parents express pain because their children no longer practice the faith. Sometimes children simply don't believe what they have been told. For some, the journey of discovery has brought them to another tradition. Others have real questions but do not have enough commitment to seek the answers. Still others have discovered that to live without an active expression of faith is simply easier. No matter how many times you proclaim that the tomb is empty and that you have seen angels, they will not believe until their own hearts burn within them.

Herein lies the greatest challenge. It is easy to communicate the facts of faith; the creed, the Ten Commandments, the sacraments, et cetera. We must communicate these, but they are empty facts if we cannot also communicate our burning love for Jesus Christ.

We are Catholic. We share the Word of God in our homes and hear it proclaimed here; for the disciple's hearts burned within them as Jesus opened the scriptures to them.

We are Catholic. We pray personally and with the community, for the hearts of the disciples burned as Jesus spoke to them.

We are Catholic. We participate in the sacramental life of the Church; for in them we meet the Lord, who has promised to be present here and now.

The tomb is empty; the women had a vision of angels who announced that Jesus is alive. Do you believe them?

We are willing to accept lots of things on faith. We are not experts in most things and we don't want to be. We accept the word of a doctor, a lawyer and a plumber. Can we accept the word of grieving women? Can we open our hearts to Jesus and allow him to love us?

We can and we do.