

FROM FR. MARK

The “Exsultet”, the great Easter song which doubles also as the Easter Proclamation states clearly that the grace of this most wonderful event “dispels all evil, washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy; it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and humbles earthly pride...when heaven is wedded to earth and man is reconciled with God!”

This message of hope has been passed down to us in the preaching of the Church and in the written words of Scripture. This message of hope colored all that the early Christians said and did. It gave focus to the way they saw life. When Paul wrote his first letter, when Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote their Gospels many years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, this message of hope was central to their writings. They wrote not as reporters or historians intent on getting the facts straight — but as believers bursting to share the good news that now we have hope!

When we look around us at the crime and shootings in our streets, when we see greed and wanton disregard for people and property, when we realize that all life can be wiped out if two intelligent and well-meaning individuals turn a red key because they have received a wrong message, we see no future. When we see hearts breaking in families because husbands and wives, children and parents no longer communicate, we cry out, “Where is it all going and when is it all going to end?” When we come into contact with poverty, mental illness, sickness, sin, death, we feel that the forces of evil must be winning. When we reflect on all that is happening in our lives and around us, we are tempted to feel the despair of the apostles in the pre-dawn hours of that first Easter. We are tempted to cry, “They have taken our Lord away and we know not where they have laid Him.” Our hope in the face of the threat of nuclear annihilation, our hope in the face of death, of our own weakness, of crime and suffering, lies in hearing, accepting, living and proclaiming that same message, “Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.”

Fr. Charles Anyaoku and myself extend to you our best wishes and all of the joy of Easter.

We extend a word of appreciation to all who made donations of, or offerings toward our Easter flowers and plants, to all those involved in our Triduum Liturgies, as well as those who decorated our churches. Thanks to all who sacrificed to make our Holy Week as prayerful, enjoyable, and inviting as it has been.

We also extend a warm welcome to those who are visitors to our Parish. We are happy you chose to celebrate Easter with us. We extend an invitation to you to become a regular part of our Parish Life. Please visit our parish website and call us, if we can help. Welcome, again, and a Blessed Easter to you.