

Pastoral Reflection
The Second Sunday of Easter
April 23-24, 2022

Today's readings carry on the theme of the Resurrection. In them we find the Apostles healing the sick, declaring that he holds the key to death and the netherworld. The Good News tells us that Jesus healed the disciples of the fear they felt post-crucifixion, and instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation ("whose sins you forgive are forgiven"). We hear about Thomas, who needed to see Christ in his resurrection glory in order to believe. John explains that certain stories are shared in the Gospels so that we might believe and have life – again returning to the Resurrection of all of us in Jesus' Name.

Do you feel resurrected? Did you come through Lent changed? Are you committed to living a simpler life, sharing with others, evangelizing through your work in Jesus, rather than recruiting seats for the pews? In the next year, our Archdiocese will be undergoing a resurrection of sorts. We don't know what form that resurrection will take. I suspect that, rather than humbling it's clerical mindset, and looking to the people of the Church for the answers, our Archdiocese will emphasize the importance of priests and "renew" the churches around them rather than us. This is pretty pessimistic, but is it realistic as well? Our community has survived to such "resurrections" in the past, and will hopefully survive this one as well, or perhaps be combined with like-minded parishes who realize the Gospels as our call to live and work as Jesus did. I have faith that Jesus is with us. I have faith that somewhere in this Archdiocese, the call to Social Justice will remain the primary will of the Church, at least in some parishes and the call to living our Gospel values will remain intact. Let us pray that the Clerics of our Archdiocese come to recognize the importance of the people of God doing God's work in their parishes, their neighborhoods, their cities and their world. May our Archdiocese and Community resurrect in Jesus.

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