

Easter 2017

They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him

The resurrection is as if God is continually breaking off a piece of himself and sharing that self with the rest of us

Magdalene couldn't see Jesus, so she decided that "*He has been taken away.*" There is always something trying to convince us that Christ has been taken away. Feelings of betrayal, abuse, failure, misunderstanding, fear and pain - they always attack our trust and faith in God

Brian McLaren (b. 1956) a prominent Christian pastor observes: "*For too long, Christianity has been seen as an evacuation plan, calling people to man the life boats and abandon the sinking Titanic. But if we see Jesus as entering the world to bring healing and hope, then we need to join him in his rising and enter with him into humanity's pain and suffering, bringing God's amazing resources to bear on the salvation of all creation. Resurrection raises up what we crucify.*"

Franciscan Fr. Richrd Rohr says: "*We have to go to the depths of pain, including our final death, to bring us out the other side by the grace and mercy and God. The word for that is resurrection. When we face that gap between death and life, we are carried across by something - someone - to the other side. The tomb is always finally empty; we are gone. There are no exceptions to death; there are no exceptions to grace. And I believe - listen carefully - with good evidence, there are no exceptions to resurrection. If we see Jesus as entering the world to bring healing and hope, then we need to join him in his rising and enter with him into humanity's pain and suffering, bringing God's amazing resources to bear on the salvation of all creation. Resurrection is our helping raise up what we crucify.*"

This is happening all around us. Jesuit Fr. Greg Boyle tells the story of a gang member named Sahool: "*He's nineteen years old. Sahool emotionally deregulates on a regular basis. Anyway he came in one morning before the day began, and he says, 'Hey, G, I got to tell you about what happened last night. I went to King Taco to get something to eat. It was kind of late, and it was a little cold and I'm trying to rush home. And I walk past that park, you know, the one over near King Taco. And as I walk past the park, I see an old man lying on a bench, and he's asleep. He's shivering because it's kind of cold. I see an old empty bottle on the ground underneath the bench. I walked up to him, and I looked at him. And that sweater that I liked a lot, I wear all the time - I took it off, and I put it over the man on the bench. And he didn't wake, and he didn't know that I did it. And I'm not telling you this because I want you to think I'm all that. I told you this because I know that bench, I've been on that bench.'* Sahool came to know his own light, because he was willing to walk through his own darkness. The word for this is Resurrection; the word for Sahool became Christ."

When we have hit bottom, when we are in our hell, we have reached the end of our own resources, and we learn to rely on a bigger source. That's what happens when we can't fix our

pain, when we can't explain it, when we can't understand it, when we can't make it right, we find ourselves falling into the arms of God.

Calvary is the story of our personal lives, our political, our economic, our social lives - how we treat those of other nationalities, races and religions. Calvary is the template of all human experience. It is the walk from "*Let this cup pass from me*" to "*Fr. forgive them - forgive it all.*" Jesus was willing to walk through his own darkness. The word for this is resurrection; the Word for Jesus became Christ.

We too welcome our Calvaries, because it is when we walk through them that we come to know our own light. The word for this is Resurrection; the name for us becomes Christ.

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and sharing that self with the rest of us*

HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!