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Easter Sunday – March 27, 2016

Dear Friends and Visitors,

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"

We will sing these words all week and echo them all the fifty days of Easter; but on this day, Easter Sunday, we might have to admit that we are a bit bewildered. We stand with the women and Peter and
John at an empty tomb and wonder what just happened. Like the inquisitive child at the Jewish Seder meal, we ask *why?* The only proper response requires us to reflect on those mysteries of life in the
face of which we are rendered helpless. Humility is that virtue that enables the creature to know and acknowledge his or her place. Humiliation occurs when we fail to recognize that we are merely
creatures and not the Creator. The journey of Lent has led us through the desert wherein we were confronted by those demons that cause us to be resentful, jealous, and vengeful. The culture within which we live seems to exalt what the Greeks called *hubris* - an all-consuming focus on me. Today, followers of the Risen Lord are asked to renounce Satan in all his forms. Alexander Schmemann once said:

"To renounce Satan ... is to reject an entire worldview made up of pride and self-affirmation, of that pride which has truly taken human life from God and made it into darkness, death and hell."

Acceptance of the new life from Christ is an affirmation that we are loved. What is the most natural response to this gift but profound gratitude? St. Catherine of Sienna once said:

"Conceive love in God by seeking his honor and the salvation of souls, and in the person of your neighbor let the love you conceive be proved by the virtue of patience."

This reflects a radical new way of viewing human life. As St. Paul once said to the people of

Colossae: "***For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."*** **(Col 3, 3)**

Blessed Easter,

Rev. Bill Foley

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—March 27, 2016, St. Patrick's Church, Olney, Maryland

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