

EASTER 2010

Homily given by Fr. Dennis Koliński, SJC

St. Peter's Church in Volo

4 April 2010

Jesus Christ is risen! He is truly risen! This is how Christians used to greet each other during the Easter season. So awesome was the fact of the Resurrection that they proclaimed it at home and on the street. In reclaiming our centuries old Catholic traditions little by little, perhaps that is one of those traditions that we should also bring back—because, after all, we are people of the Resurrection. Our entire faith revolves around the Resurrection. The entire hope of our future in eternity is rooted in this day.

Like the forty years the Israelites wandered in the desert before entering the Promised Land, we have just made our annual forty day pilgrimage through Lent and now stand on the threshold of the new Promised Land, which will not be just a land “flowing in milk and honey” but an eternal kingdom, where we together shall reign in glory with our Risen Lord, freed from the suffering and death of this fallen world to worship Him forever at the nuptial feast of the Lamb.

An essential part of every Lent is the self-examination that we all need in order to shake off the ways of the world and realign ourselves once again with the ways of God. And here at St. Peter's during this Lent we all made a communal examination of conscience and looked deep within our souls to find how we have strayed from the path. There is nothing better that could happen in a parish than many confessions during Lent and that has certainly happened here. That means that you are trying to be holy. It means that you truly wanted to prepare yourselves for this great day of our redemption, for how can we expect to be saved if we don't first admit our offenses and then humbly ask forgiveness.

On Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we looked at how the world has once again sunk into a penetrating darkness just like it did two thousand years ago when they killed Our Savior. We live in a perverse sinful world but we must always remember that where sin abounds, grace abounds even more. It may seem as if the world is sinking deeper and deeper into the abyss of evil but actually, we are really beginning to rise up out of it. Yes. It will get worse. Persecutions will continue and they very well may even get worse. But from the age of persecution in the early Church arose a Church glorious and resplendent. Times are changing and although it may be difficult to see it, the dawn is beginning to rise out of the darkness. The problems that we have been dealing with for a long time now are really beginning to fade little by little into the past. Those, who are responsible for ills of our world, and especially in our Church, as beginning to see that their days are limited. The experiment has failed. And although they have caused us much pain, the sins of men, even men of the Church, will never, never be able to conceal or deform the beauty of the Church, which shines resplendent, especially on this day.

“Pope Benedict is leading us out of the wilderness that this epoch hurled us into and pointing us all to the promised land of tradition, truth, and beauty. Is it any wonder that he is coming under attack by those who would like to keep the fullness of Catholicism at bay? Did anyone really believe that such a calamitous time for the Church could come to an end without struggle? ... The problems we are dealing with are in the past. That they are all coming to light is part of the necessary step for going forward. The period to regret dates

back decades. The period to look forward to is in the coming decades. Pope Benedict was chosen to be the one to lead the way.”¹

The relativists think that they have won. They say that there is no such thing as absolute truth and that everyone’s truth is as valid as the next person’s. But although they still control governments and the media and powerful positions in the world, they have already lost because there is something called truth and they don’t have it. We do and that is why, in the end, we will rise triumphant in the end. The relativists, the secularists, the materialists, the atheists and all the others, who have followed the Prince of Lies, think that they are happy. They think that they are creating a better world. They think that they know better than us. But it is all an illusion and will never bring them or the world true happiness, for how can you hope in something better if you don’t have something true for which to hope.

We, on the other hand, can have true hope because we have the truth. That truth is a person, who once died but rose from the dead. And from that day, the world was no longer the same. The world may laugh at us and say that we believe in myths but it is they, who believe in a fiction, in fabrications of their own minds, which cannot save. We know that the Resurrection is true and in it we have our hope because we know that one day we will rise from the dead to join Him at the eternal banquet of heaven. That is what we celebrate today, the shattering of the reign of darkness by the Light of Truth, which has come into the world to bring us life, to bring us truth and to show us the way.

The hope of new life is dawning on the horizon because Our Savior once dead has risen from the grave as He promised. Today, despite the trials of the world around us, we have cause for great joy because we know that Jesus Christ is risen!—He is truly risen!

¹ Tucker, Jeffrey, “The Troubles of the Catholic World,” *New Liturgical Movement*, 3 April 2010 (<http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2010/04/troubles-of-catholic-world.html>).