



FROM FR. RASO

When there are holidays coming up, the articles in this Bulletin have to be sent in early, so as to make sure that the Bulletins are ready by the day of the holiday. So, as I am writing this, it is Monday, March 28th and so I have no idea what the weather is going to be like on Sunday, April 17th. However it doesn't matter at all. If it is Easter Sunday, it is the most beautiful day of the year.

Since childhood Easter Sunday has been my favorite holiday, one which is to me more filled with beauty and grace than any other day of the year. Of course, when I was a little boy, Christmas Day was pretty special too, but for me Easter was even more special. Why? Well, spring was here and the weather was beautiful and warm (as I hope it is today!). The church was especially beautiful, with all of those lilies and other beautiful flowers. The hymns were triumphant and lovely ("Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Holy Anthem Rise" is my favorite hymn. Love it!). The girls were pretty and even the boys like me were, albeit temporarily, a bit more presentable than usual. There just was something in the air that was special and I could feel it.

What was it "in the air" that was so special? At first I couldn't define it but after awhile, I knew what it was. Needless to say, I don't claim to be a genius or anything, either now or then, but when in a somewhat later grade, the sister told us that Christmas was the third most important feast of the Church and Pentecost was the second most important but it was Easter, the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus, that was the most important of all, the rest of the class, fans of Christmas I guess, were surprised, and not pleasantly so, but not me. My instincts has always told me that it as Easter that was the greatest day of them all - and it is!

"This is the day the Lord has made", our Responsorial Psalm proclaims today." Let us rejoice and be glad." No event in all of history can compare with what happened on this day. The Lord had said to His disciples: "Better love than this has no one than to lay down his life for those he loves". These were beautiful words but they turned out to be more than just words when Good Friday came and Jesus proved them to be gloriously true as far as He was concerned when He gave His life for all of us on the Cross and thus opened the Gates of Heaven for all of us forever. He had given everything to save us - and then, as Mary Magdalene and the other holy women discovered early in the morning of the third day, He wasn't through yet. On Easter Sunday morning, He gave all of us new life with His Resurrection and made Easter Sunday the single greatest day in the history of the world - the most important, the most sacred and, as we can all feel "in the air" today (good weather or not) the most beautiful day of all.

This greatest of all gifts, the gift of Easter Sunday, requires a response from us all and Saint Paul, in his First Letter to the Corinthians, which is our Second Reading today, tells us what that response should be: "Let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." He died for us? Let us live for Him. He rose to give us new life?

Let us use those new lives to show the world just how much we believe in Him and love him. He led us through the Gates of Heaven? Let us be an Easter people every day of our lives and lead all of our sisters and brothers through those Gates by the light of Easter that shines through us today and, for that matter, every day we live.