

Dear Parishioners,

How many of us fell into the glorious trap of thinking that because Lent is over we no longer have to fast, pray, or give alms? Well thank God Lent's over, now we can return to normal life and put aside all that spiritual and penitential stuff for another year. So, let's eat sweets again, let's put aside the extra efforts to pray, let's not worry about spending extra money to take care of the poor. Jesus is risen, alleluia, now we can be normal again.

It doesn't work that way.

Easter is a time for us to turn our penitence into joy. Fasting need not be a penitential practice only. Why not continue the fast during the seven weeks of Easter. Perhaps our fasting proved to have very positive results for us spiritually. Perhaps in the emptiness of our fast we have found a deeper, more fulfilling and enriching experience of the risen Christ. Perhaps in the prayer times to which we committed ourselves, we found that listening to God's Word has given us greater hope in a world filled with tremendous despair. Perhaps our acts of charity have proven to others who have suffered that the risen Christ really does live on in us who are his believers.

In other words, we have entered into yet another powerful and beautiful liturgical season that demands just as much spiritual effort and energy as Lent. Easter is a time for us to continue on, in a joyful way, the rich and meaningful experiences of fasting, prayer and almsgiving because these are the actions of Christian disciples each and every day. We do not want to limit our experiences of Christian discipleship to forty days out of the year. We want to grow into them three hundred and sixty five days of the year. Lent and Easter give us the time we need to get used to new and better ways to live as Christian disciples throughout our entire lives in eternity.

I want to say a special word of thanks to all those who made the Triduum and Easter Sunday so special; the names are too numerous for this page. The church is stunningly beautiful and many people worked hard to make our worship space beautiful. The liturgy commission worked so hard in planning and preparing for all the integral details of each liturgical celebration and I am deeply grateful for all their time and energy. I am grateful to all the musicians, choir members, and Paul Marchese for so powerfully enhancing the beauty of these liturgical celebrations. We have a great parish community and I am proud to be your pastor.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel