

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, April 17, 2022
Easter Sunday
Cycle C

One Easter a priest and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them. "Come with me", said St. Peter to the taxi driver. The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had everything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an Olympic size pool. "Oh my God, thank you", said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the priest to a rough old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set. Wait, I think you are a little mixed up, said the priest. Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a priest, went to church every day, and preached God's word.

Yes, that's true. St. Peter replied, but during your Easter sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Do you believe in this reality of our faith?

Let me caution you: If you are going to accept the truth of the Resurrection –"Christ is risen!" – you need to let it change you totally! The problem for most of us is that we are not surprised enough by Easter to realize that we face a choice. We have to choose to let it affect and influence the way we live our lives. We have to let others know that Easter is true –that Christ's resurrection is too good not to be true.

We have to let them know this by allowing the resurrection to change us and to work in our lives...and by allowing ourselves to be filled with new life –a new way of seeing things, a new way of relating with others, and a new way of performing our tasks, our mission in life. We do not believe in a future life but rather in an everlasting life.

Our share in Christ's Resurrection will not happen only in the hereafter. Resurrection does not happen to us after we are dead. We can and we must share in his Resurrection here and now by choosing to follow Jesus every single moment. We

rise the moment we respond to the call to conversion and allow ourselves be embraced by God's loving mercy.

- We rise when we learn to let go and let God be God in our life.
- We rise when we are able to say and pray: "Lord, not my will, but your will be done."
- We rise when we give without counting the cost and when we labor without asking for reward.
- We rise when we release our resentment and bitterness and decide to forgive our enemies from the heart.

Let us allow Christ's Resurrection to empower us to overcome selfishness and learn his selfless ways, to move on from the painful past and have a fresh start, to go beyond the worries and anxieties of our daily life and learn to trust more in the divine providence.

Christ is risen again! He wants us to rise again. Let us allow the resurrection of Christ to raise us up from the darkness of sin, from broken and painful situation in life, from all the things that keep us from moving on.

May the Risen Lord fill our hearts with love, peace, hope and joy this Easter, so we may all have the courage to say:

Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Amen