

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday
Cycle B

I love to watch fairytale movies. What all fairytales have in common is a happy ending. In them that old human instinct, hope, emerges ever victorious. Like life, fairytales include much struggle and pain, yet even so manage to resolve in a way that replaces tears with smiles. Easter does that too, and for this as well as for many other reasons, it rings true.

Unfortunately, some people are so focused on bad news, on wars and violence, on pain and tragedy and death, that they find Easter too good to be true. For them, Easter seems too much of an exception, too much a contradiction to what the news reports night after night in gruesome detail, too much denial of the “facts of life”, as they say, to be credible. Indeed, from their pessimistic point of view, Easter seems a fairytale exception, a stunning reversal of our down-to-earth world.

But there is another way of looking at the world—God’s way. That way is clearly mapped out in the Bible. The first chapters of the Book of Genesis reveal God’s dream for us, “And God saw that everything was very good”. And the last chapters of the Book of Revelation show the realization of that dream: the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven, like a bride to meet her bridegroom, the marvelous city where there will be no more tears, no more death or mourning, crying or pain. That story written by God is the main story. The in-between stories of sin and death squeezed in between the beginning and end of the Bible are really only a long parenthesis written by us humans, a sad interlude briefly interrupting God’s point of view, Easter is simply a preview of ultimate reality. We are meant for a good ending, Easter tells us. A good ending is the natural thing to expect when God is in charge. With God, nothing is too good to be true. Or, expressed in a more positive terms,

Easter is too good to be false. And for that Easter mystery to truly happen in our world today, we need to make Jesus always alive in our hearts. By living out our faith we will become the very proof of the Resurrection. Be the Good News to others.