

Alleluia! We haven't heard that word for a while—in fact, a little over six weeks. ***Alleluia*** is the word we ring out again at Easter. ***Alleluia*** means “Praise the Lord!” And, at Easter we praise our God for the greatest event that has taken place in all of creation—Jesus has been raised from the dead.

If the Resurrection of Jesus never happened we would not be here—in Holy Cross parish, in the Catholic Church, in a Catholic school. EVERYTHING we are about in our faith hinges and is because of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

The resurrection of Jesus is without question the most pivotal truth to the Christian faith. St. Paul makes it clear in 1 Corinthians 15:16. He says: *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile.”*

Paul was writing to people who refused to believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus. It seems that they still wanted to follow and adhere to his teachings, but stopped short in their belief that he defeated death! Paul was logically helping them to understand that Jesus is more than a moral teacher whose teachings lead to a full and balanced life. He is much more than a moral influence!

Paul's point is that life continues! It does not end with your final heartbeat and breath! It didn't end for Jesus and it doesn't end for anyone! For if we believe in Jesus and His Resurrection and accept Him into our lives we will share in His Resurrection.

You see, Jesus came back! He went to the other side and has returned to tell us that for all people who receive his forgiveness all is well -- on the other side of your last heartbeat!

The first law of thermodynamics says that no mass or energy is ever destroyed, that it merely changes form. When a piece of wood is burned, it is not gone. Some of it becomes heat; some deteriorates into the ashes. But it is not destroyed - it just changes. When a lake dries up, the water is gone. It has evaporated into the air, only to fall to earth again someday. Now, if we can see this all around us in the physical world, why is it so hard to conceive of it in the spiritual world?

Eloquent preacher Harry Emerson Fosdick said, *“Can it be that God is the most unscrupulous waster in the universe making great personalities, only to throw them utterly away.”* If we can see it easily in nature, why can't we see it easily in the sphere of faith? When we can, then we too can have the same confidence that the apostle Paul had when he said, *“We shall all be changed.”*

The Resurrection of Jesus has changed everything. It has changed how we look at life. It has changed the way we look at death. It should change how we live our life on earth, as we look forward to living our life eternally on high with our Risen Lord.

For the promise of eternal life, and making it happen through the Resurrection of Jesus, we *praise the Lord!* And, we sing ***Alleluia!*** Jesus is risen! Indeed, Alleluia is our song!

