

Pastoral Message: April 17, 2022

I think it is important, as we celebrate Easter Sunday, to remember the Easter season has just begun. We celebrate it for fifty days. Notice in the resurrection story we see many things that we saw at Jesus' dying and crucifixion. We see fear, confusion, grief, and doubt, but with resurrection we also see peace, joy, and forgiveness. I think it is important to remember we carry both sides of the mystery in our life's journey to death and resurrection. We grow slowly and gradually into the new life Jesus has for us. Let's be patient as it slowly blossoms and unfolds. Pierre Teilhard De Chardin SJ puts it this way:

Patient Trust

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay.

We should like to skip the intermediate stages.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new.

And yet it is the law of all progress

that it is made by passing through some stages of instability—

and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you;

your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,

let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,

as though you could be today what time

(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)

will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit

gradually forming within you will be.

Give Our Lord the benefit of believing

that his hand is leading you,

and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself

in suspense and incomplete.