

Sunday, March 27, 2016
EXPRESSIONS by Father Ed

Easter/Resurrection

Easter is a feast of hope that re-imagines and re-interprets the expected. While resurrection nowadays is a taken-for-granted theory, it is actually a contradiction of the normal or natural. Life doesn't just automatically revive. Christian faith is not based on the obvious or the visibly perceptible. There is no such thing as a "natural law." Faith is not science, otherwise the Resurrection could easily be explained.

In a similar way, Easter is more experimental than realistic. It is future-oriented, projecting new possibilities of developing and advancing the conditions of life. By definition, Easter is restless and inventive, enthusiastic and energetic. It invites new ideas and perspectives, probing alternative paths and trying tentative solutions. Easter bursts accustomed boundaries and borders. It refuses to be stymied by fear or contained by death. Resurrection stirs up life, exploring new options and strategies. It is the opposite of deadlocks, blockades, and dead-ends. Every effort to break impasses, and reconcile differences is an acknowledgment of Resurrection. Diplomacy, rather than war, validates resurrection.

Resurrection is a grand, stupendous feat but it also is very ordinary. Forgiveness is resurrection. Generosity is resurrection. Compassion is resurrection. Helping the sick, those in crisis, the poor, is resurrection because it benefits and values life. Resurrection, then, is simple, everyday gestures that improve life and make a positive difference. Resurrection is encouragement, congratulations and compliments. It is courage in the face of crisis or obstacles. It is wisdom and intelligence instead of intransigent ideology.

I consider every form of achievement a sign of Resurrection. Skyscrapers, art, literature, space exploration, medical technology, computers and everything hi-tech, transportation, and every other kind of modern convenience. These all are the inventions of men and women reaching beyond the imaginable and changing the pace and style of life. Democracy also is a symbol of resurrection because it ennoble the individual and bestows self-autonomy. For this reason, every form of prejudice, segregation, and discrimination is contra-resurrection because it denies respect and dignity to the individual. The genius of the resurrection also is revealed in the modern ethical concerns of human rights, non-violence, and peace. Resurrection challenges a facile interpretation of guns and weapons. All harm and revenge is contradictory to Easter and Resurrection. Life is too precious to be maltreated or killed. Life is a blessing to be honored, celebrated, and revered. This is the meaning of Easter and Resurrection.