

The Fish Net

Lent 2018

Dear Friends,

April 1st is for many people April Fool's Day, the morning that is set aside for playing practical jokes. This year however April 1st isn't just April Fool's Day, it is also something else that is far more important; it is Easter Sunday. As I thought about this it occurred to me; how many people regard the message and promise of both Good Friday and Easter as being nothing more than a "joke". God became a human, lived, died and was raised for our salvation? You've got to be kidding! There is of course nothing new in this. As St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians so long ago, "Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom but we preach Christ crucified."

Like some of the ancient Jews, some people today demand signs and miracles before they will have faith and believe in God. Sometimes people are like ancient Greeks as well; holding God accountable to them rather than the other way around, demanding that only if God give them answers for such as why things happen will they have faith and believe. To some people anything less than signs or answers are not good enough, and to talk about God's love and salvation being proclaimed through such as the cross and empty tomb is a joke and a bad one at that. And yet ... that is what God in His infinite wisdom has given us, Christ crucified and risen, and as Paul wrote: "The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom."

I have long thought that a joke is something that a person either gets or doesn't get and the more one tries to explain it, the less funny it is. And so it is with Good Friday and Easter; we either get it or we don't. Easter Sunday falls on April Fool's Day this year and Easter, all about God's love for all of us as revealed through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, is most certainly not a joke.

Wishing you a most blessed Easter!

Shawn