



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Happy Easter!

As believers in the hope, joy, and promise of the resurrection, may we walk with Jesus in newness of life and may we walk with one another in newness of life; most definitely today, but also throughout these 50 days of Easter life.

My mom, Lorrie Nacius, died on February 23, 2022. When parishioners, friends, and family members heard of her death, hundreds of notes of support, encouragement, and prayer were shared with me and my four other siblings and their children and family members. What a gift to be supported by so many caring people.

In one of the notes, I received a quote - a prayer written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This prayer is titled "Nothing." On this day of Easter hope, I pray it may be a source of strength and encouragement for you as it has been for me:

*"Nothing  
Can make up for the absence of someone we love.  
  
And it would be wrong to try to find a substitute.  
We must simply hold out and see it through.  
That sounds very hard at first, but at the same time  
It is a great consolation.  
For the gap – as long as it remains unfilled - preserves  
The bond between us.  
  
It is nonsense to say that God fills the gap.  
God does not fill it.  
But on the contrary keeps it empty  
And so, helps us to keep alive  
Our former communion  
With each other  
Even at the cost of pain."*

As followers of our crucified and risen Lord, we ourselves experience many dying's and risings throughout our lives. Saying goodbye, letting go, grieving a member of the family, a parishioner, or a friend always brings us in touch with our own mortality. We hope, we pray, we long for lives filled with God's abundant and amazing grace. At times, the grace is the gift to walk with others and support them in carrying the crosses that are natural parts of our human lives.

As we walk with Jesus in newness of life, we are to be open to the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable, the surprises and the possibilities and potential that are always part of our Christian journey. It is the hope that throughout our lives we may bear hope to one another. As we proclaim and share in Jesus' victory, may hope be ever present and ever constant in our prayerful celebration of the Easter season.

We welcome those who have been able to come to St. Mary's to sing out our joyous "alleluias" this Easter. We remember and pray with those who participate via the Mass streamed into their homes this Easter. On behalf of the entire Parish Staff, we wish you and your loved ones the joy of this Easter and that it be experienced and known by all. And your financial support of the parish at Easter is very much appreciated.

May God bless you with a spiritual, joy filled, and life-filled Easter season,

*Fr. Mike Nacius*

