

Pastoral Care Newsletter

Introduction

By Joseph Viti

Theme: Amazed by God's Love

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The theme of this Easter Newsletter is Amazed by God's Love. However, in certain texts of the New Testament, some of the followers of Jesus were not amazed by the Resurrection. They were filled with negativity and doubts. In Mark 16:8, the women who came on Sunday morning to anoint the body of Jesus found an empty tomb. They were told by an angel that "Jesus who was crucified...has been raised." (Mark 16: 6) "So they went out and ran from the tomb, distressed and terrified." (Mark 16:8) In Luke 24: 11, the apostles, upon hearing the news from the women that Jesus was raised from the dead, "thought that what they said was nonsense, and they did not believe them." "Peter got up and ran toward the tomb. He bent down and saw the grave clothes and nothing else. Then he went back home amazed by what had happened." (Luke 24:12). When the resurrected Jesus, appeared to the twelve for the first time, "they were terrified." (Luke 24:36). Of course each one of us knows about doubting Thomas. (John 20: 27-29). There was deep doubt and negativity by the first witnesses of the resurrection because, at times, it is difficult for us to get beyond our human limits. Death is a difficult limit for us to fathom. Many of us do not enjoy going to wakes and funerals. There is a sadness about those events we struggle with. In the article by Sibi Kuriakose entitled, Black Lives Matter, we are dealing with racism which is a limit ingrained in our culture for too long. In struggling with human limits, Peter is the only one who expresses enthusiasm. He ran to greet the Resurrected Jesus, both in Luke and John (21:7). He was probably suffering deeply from his denial of Jesus. Being wracked with emotional pain and guilt, he was acutely aware how much he needed Jesus's forgiveness. As Fr. Nicholas Mtey points out in the last paragraph of his article, when we accept the limits of our human nature and discover the meaning of our sufferings, we can then get beyond our human limits to embrace the Resurrection of Jesus and become amazed by God's love.
Happy Easter, Joe Viti



EASTER MESSAGE

Fr. Nicholas A. Mtey – Pastoral Care

AMAZED BY GOD

A Christian life should be filled with amazement — astonishment at the Son of God suffering and dying for humanity; and awe at realizing how precious and loved people we are in His eyes. "Can we still be moved by God's love? Have we lost the ability to be amazed by him?" Pope Francis is inviting us to be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again, for the splendor of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realizing that we are loved and in experiencing the beauty of loving others. The Pope marked an important Easter time to be amazed by Jesus, who completely overturned people's expectations. Instead of being a powerful liberator at Passover, he arrives on a lowly donkey to bring the Passover to fulfillment by sacrificing himself and, instead of triumphing over the Romans by the sword, Jesus comes to celebrate God's triumph through the cross. What is amazing, the Pope said, is the fact that He achieves glory through humiliation. He triumphs by accepting suffering and death, things that we, in our quest for admiration and success, would rather avoid.

The Easter message does not offer us a mirage or reveal a magic formula. It does not point to an escape from the difficult situation we are experiencing. The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor. Nonetheless — and this is scandalous — armed conflicts have not ended, and military arsenals are being strengthened. That is today's scandal.

In the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: "Jesus who was crucified has risen". It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples.

In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread to all the patients whom we care and the people of the whole world. Let us with the sense of amazement and by gazing upon Jesus on the cross, say to him, "Lord, how much you love me! How precious I am to you!"

A Good, Happy and Serene Easter to all of you!

“Black Lives Matter”: A Third Culture Perspective

By Sibi Kuriakose

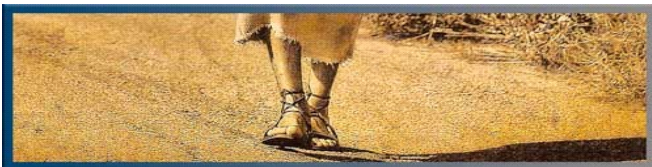
An African Proverb: There is No Smoke without a Fire. So, obviously there is a problem, which needs to be addressed as One Nation under God, United States of America. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is one of the pioneers, who paved the path of dialogue and peaceful protest to address this issue as a whole country.

The ‘Mindset’ of America is where the change needs to happen the most: Perspectives and Perceptions need to be changed, in order to bring liberty and justice for all Americans. Thought processes need to be changed, to accept equality and equal rights for every human. Racial barriers need to be removed, to have better diversity presence in the community where every human can complement each other.

Is there any gender disparity within Black Lives Matters...? This is a very controversial issue which needs to be addressed separately. So, is it just Black Lives Matters...? Third culture and race tells me that “All Lives Matters”. Life is a precious gift from God. And irrespective of colors of the skin, human anatomy remains the same for every human being, who are created in the image and likeness of God.

Consider the Mission of the medical center, “The Healing Mission of Jesus Christ”. Jesus’ Mission was to the marginalized in the society. Not only socio-economical marginalization but also there are emotional and spiritual marginalization in our society. As we continue to strive to be better in the healing Mission of Jesus Christ, let’s follow His example and His footsteps, of be more inclusive and accepting people who they are, irrespective of their backgrounds on the basis of race/ color/ ethnicity. Let’s press more to have unity in diversity.

God bless us and God Bless America!

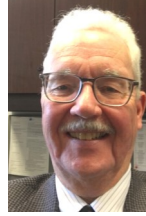


This article consists of abstracts from conversation and or contribution from following caregivers in the hospital.

- Latino: MD (Female) MD (Male)
- Latino: RN (Female) RN (Male)
- Latino: Other (Female) Other (Male)
- Asian: MD (Female) MD (Male)
- Asian: RN (Female) RN (Male)
- Asian: Other (Female) Other (Male)
- Arab/Middle East: MD (Female) MD (Male)
- Arab/Middle East: RN (Female) RN (Male)
- Arab/Middle East: Other (Female) Other (Male)
- Indian: MD (Female) MD (Male)
- Indian: RN (Female) RN (Male)
- Indian Other (Female) Other (Male)

Alumnus/Corner

Where Are They Now?



Chaplain Robert D. Kyllonen
Chaplain, UH Main Campus in Cleveland

I finished my CPE Residency at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center, in September of 2020. Since then I have been working as a PRN Chaplain at Parma Medical Center of University Hospitals. I fill in for Chaplain Wayne Decker, when he is taking PTO. I am also filling in for three Chaplains at UH Main Campus in Cleveland. I am continuing to do On-Call Chaplain work for UH Main through Chaplain Partnership.

I have just been hired to work half-time in the Chaplain Office at UH Main and they are allowing me to continue to do PRN at Parma. I am excited to be in the hospital environment.

The most valuable thing that I learned from CPE, which I use every day, is to have a non-anxious pastoral presence with patient and to approach each encounter with self-confidence.

I am continuing to do ministry at our church, in Highland Heights as a lay person and I am scheduled to do some fill-in preaching.

My family is doing well and has remained free of Covid19. We have all received at least on vaccine shot. My son Rory is working for Master Hose and my daughter Liz is taking Vet Tech classes. My wife Kay has moved to half-time at Fairview Hospital and is enjoying the change.

I miss my CPE colleagues, my Educator, the Staff Chaplains, Sister Jane, and all the great folk at St. Vincent.

May God Bless you all richly.



Calendar of Events

April 2021

April 22 Earth day

May 2021

May 6 – 12 National Nurses’ Week
May 9 Mother’s Day
May 9– 15 National Hospital Week
May 13 Ramadan ends at sundown
May 31 Memorial’s Day

June 2021

June 20 Father’s Day

Newsletter Editors:

Sister Miriam Erb, VP Mission and Ministry
Joe Viti, ACPE Educator/Director of Pastoral Care
Rev. Sibi Kuriakose, Staff Chaplain/Asst. Director of Pastoral Care
Samuel Lockhart, CPE Student Resident