

## Homily – Jubilarian Mass

April 2, 2018

We gather in Easter joy to give thanks for God's fidelity to his promises and also for the fidelity of our jubilarians who have faithfully lived their vows and promises for many years. My dear sisters and brothers, you have been faithful to the gospel by living a life of poverty, chastity, and obedience in contrast with the worldly quest for possessions, pleasure, and power. Your lives give witness to the truth of God's word and the kingdom of God among us.

In the first reading Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, proclaims the truth that Jesus crucified is now the risen Lord. God has raised him from death on the cross. Today's gospel has a sharp contrast between the truth of Jesus' resurrection and the "fake news" spread by the chief priests and elders.

The resurrection presented a problem for the religious leaders in Jerusalem. However, the cross itself presented a problem for the early disciples. As St. Paul says, Jesus crucified is "a stumbling block" to many and "folly" to still others. Worldly wisdom cannot comprehend a crucified Savior. Nevertheless, through Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection light breaks through the darkness

of the world, forgiveness overcomes sin and death, suffering takes on new meaning when seen through the eyes of faith.

We firmly believe that Jesus has definitively overcome the forces of evil. Yes, these forces are still powerfully at work today. But we know the truth: God will ultimately set everything right. God's kingdom is **already** among us – wherever there is justice and peace, mercy and compassion -- even though the kingdom is clearly **not yet** complete. Each of us needs to help build the kingdom of God every day by the way we live and by our actions.

We have a responsibility as missionary disciples of the risen Lord to proclaim the truth of the gospel – the truth of God's enduring love for us. Daily we are all bombarded and manipulated by disinformation and lies in the public forum and on social media. The many serious problems we face in our divided community and nation can only be solved by dialogue. This requires mutual respect and trust. This, in turn, is possible only if we both seek out and speak the truth! Today as we gather with Our Lady and Jesus' disciples in the Upper Room, may we experience anew the **truth** of the gospel message of God's wondrous, unconditional, and enduring love!