

April 20, 2019
Easter Vigil – Conclusion of Triduum
Genesis 1:1, 26-31; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:14-15:1; Romans 6:3-11;
Luke 24:1-12

While the Irish are credited with being GRAND storytellers, truthfully, people of every ethnicity, every familial grouping, every nationality and age grouping, share the STORYTELLING gene. From the simple opening lines of ‘What I did this weekend’ to ‘How did the date go?’ to ‘Did you get the job?’ to ‘Are you ok?’ flows a fresh story. A story composed with our own words, drawn from our own experiences, viewed through our own eyes and understanding...stories denote the intimacy of the people with whom we choose to share them. Some stories are brief, a few words shared at the water cooler, some stories merit visiting Starbucks and extended one-on-one time and conversation, still other stories demand to be told over food and go long past midnight into the early morning hours.

Through stories, we come to know each other, we determine the value of one another’s relationship with us and we demonstrate our trust and worthiness by how we share and receive one another’s stories. Tonight, in preparing to welcome our Catechumens and Candidates, we surround them with a ‘sampling’ of our FAITH stories. These stories are the core of our FAITH and trace their storylines back to our Jewish ancestry. These stories speak of how we see the actions of God within every aspect of creation, both here on earth and in the heavens our telescopes and probes are discovering. Our stories speak to our being created in God’s image and likeness...and also of our brokenness and capacity to hurt and wound both creation and one another. Our stories speak of our growing awareness of GOD’s presence, of GOD’s benevolence, of GOD’s persistence and of GOD’s willingness to go the EXTREME extra mile to reveal himself to us. Within this last week, we as Roman Catholic Christians, have, at great length, explored the story of Jesus and his willingness to allow us to torment him and ultimately try to drive him from our lives.

Gathering as we do this evening within the GREAT EASTER VIGIL, our stories are the foundation from which we embrace MYSTERY. In our Catholic-Christian understanding of the word ‘mystery’, it does NOT mean we cannot grasp something, but rather, we cannot STROP TRYING TO UNDERSTAND SOMETHING. So once again, tonight, we retell our sacred stories and digest them through the lens of another year of fresh experiences and newly gained insights. What was confusing last year, may, because of another year of life experiences, this year make a little more sense. The stories remain the same....how we hear them, value them and own them is new and fresh.

Dan Dao, Haley Hamilton, Emily Matiasevich, Melvin Benner, Shawna Browne, Darren Campbell, Charles Coburn, Bradley Collier, Anissa Encarnacion, Nichelle Lupo and Gina Matiasevich, each of you are LIVING SIGNS of how our stories continue to change, grow and enhance those who hear them. Not only have our stories impacted you to the extent that you desire to join our Roman Catholic Community....but by your joining with us...YOU now change OUR story....YOU change how we hear them...YOU change how we understand them. YOU bring fresh vision, energy, questions and strength by your inclusion within our Santa Clara – Roman Catholic family. YOU are living signs to us of the value and strength of these stories to which we have clung for these past 2000+ years. YOU are signs to us of the Resurrection and of God’s continued belief in what we strive to become. THANK YOU!

Whether you are Irish, Vietnamese, Mexican, Slovakian, Croatian, Korean, French, English, German or Nigerian, this is a good night in which to remember YOUR stories....for within your familial heritage, from within the communities who gave you nurture, recall the stories of how you have come to be and how you have survived and grown, for that is where the grace of God dwells and from where you will find the fresh hope to live your lives and encounter Jesus of Nazareth...who was crucified...but now is raised from the dead.

Alleluia!!!

Thank you for sharing this Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday evening with our Santa Clara community. With great joy we welcome **Dan Dao, Haley Hamilton and Emily Matiasevich, Melvin Benner, Shawna Browne, Darren Campbell, Charles Coburn, Bradley Collier, Anissa Encarnacion, Nichelle Lupo and Gina Matiasevich** to our Roman Catholic Community. A tasty and refreshing reception has been prepared for all in attendance tonight, please join the RCIA Team and our Hospitality Ministries on the patio for food and beverage. Bulletins await you with more news of upcoming events, please take one as you depart...and as always, as you celebrate and retell YOUR STORY, please remember, you are loved. FKB