

Easter Vigil  
April 3, 2010  
Fr. Bill McGinty

## **“From faith to transformation”**

We all need Resurrection in our lives. We all need to find a way to renew ourselves, and to sometimes come back from the greatest tragedies and sadness.

Tonight’s service, of the Easter Vigil was a night that so many people would have waited for in the Early Church. Tonight was the night of their Baptism. The night they finally became Christians. The Catechumens, those studying and preparing for Baptism, had fasted and prayed through the 6 weeks of Lent. Now they were ready to receive Baptism and the whole church gathered on this night to lay witness to it.

As they came up out of the waters of Baptism, they were robed in a white garment and given a lighted candle. They were told to go forth and proclaim the Gospel and to follow the teachings of the Lord.

This night of Resurrection is also a night of transformation. If Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior was standing here tonight talking to us, surely this is what I believe he would say:

“I am truly present among you. Yes, I am resurrection and I am life. I am so glad that you have chosen to follow me and believe in me. I do not take pain away. Nor can I bring back what you have lost. I will not take death away, or stop bad things happening to good people, but I can offer you transformation.”

I offer you transformation which only you can administer to yourself. I am the teacher, you are the student. I teach you how, but it is you. Who must live your life by the precepts that I teach.

The formula of not lying to yourself, and instead reaching out to others, is one you have seen many times and is inscribed in my Gospel. If you would embrace Resurrection, you must first embrace my Gospel. If you would be saved, you must first transform yourself. There is no road to salvation that does not pass through Calvary. It is not just passing through these three days that counts. It is those you help along the way. None of us can be saved on our own. The Kingdom is not an awards ceremony. The Kingdom is a fellowship. Seek to enter, by being the servant of all. In addition, you travel a road that is wide and less steep. At no time, can you avoid the pain that must come your way? Like me, you must embrace it. Like me, you too must die that you may live. This is resurrection.”

As tonight, we renew our baptismal covenant with God, let us all pray that the transformation Jesus speaks of, may bring us to be better people in this life.

This Easter we pray for blessings on our parish and its ministries.

Particularly, we pray for our sick and all who seek to serve this Shared Ministry.  
Amen+

