

SAID ED April 21, 2013

Desire for Deeper Prayer

It's the Fourth Sunday of Easter and we are still celebrating the deep mystery of the Lord's Resurrection. We have welcomed several new members into our Catholic Church and are preparing more for initiation as the future unfolds. It is a blessed time for our community and I am proud to be a part of our common life. In a few weeks we'll be welcome almost 90 "little ones" to the Lord's Table as we celebrate their First Holy Communion on Mother's Day.

The Easter Season is a time to ask deep questions about our faith journey. This time of "mystagogia" is given to us to ponder our relationship with the risen God in the light of the death and rising of the Lord. It's a time to take stock of where we are at and ask how well we are relating to God. O, which course, the way we relate with God also sets the tone for how we relate to others. Recently I came upon a reflection by one of my favorite authors, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM. It challenges me to see this Easter Season as a time of joy filled questioning.

He writes: "Which comes first? Does feeling safe and held by God allow you to deal with others in the same way? Or does human tenderness allow you to imagine that God must be the same, but infinitely so? I do not suppose it really matters where you start; the important thing is that you get in on the big secret from one side or the other. The big and hidden secret is this: an infinite God seeks and desires intimacy with the human soul. Once you experience such intimacy, only the intimate language of lovers describes what is going on for you: mystery, tenderness, singularity, specialness, changing the rules "for me," nakedness, risk, ecstasy, incessant longing, and, of course, also suffering. This is the mystical vocabulary of the saints."

Many people feel seem to be feeling an attraction to deepen their prayer life (relationship with God) these days. You may be one of them. If so, I highly recommend that you see the bulletin for details on how you might do this. Our parish blessed to have a fine program which introduces people to the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius. Dorothy Lindsay and a team of trained prayer guides help ordinary people on this extraordinary journey into the heart of God. On this Thursday, April 25, there will be a meeting of people interested in the journey. Many of our parishioners have found great joy and depth in this growth process and I highly recommend it to you. See the bulletin (page ?) for more information. This might be just your heart is looking for.

Have a great week and remember that the risen Lord "goes before you into Galilee."
