

EASTER TRIUMPH, EASTER JOY!

Those words come from an old Easter hymn, *At The Lamb's High Feast*, and express the central truth of what we celebrate during these fifty days of Eastertime. But another expression of that truth can literally be seen in the magnificent Easter banners hanging in the church sanctuary. By now, everyone has seen them and hopefully you were able to read the article in the Easter Sunday bulletin about their creation by parishioner and artist, Jose Medina. Mr. Medina devoted more than two months of his time and talent, painstakingly painting the images that invite us to contemplate the miracle of *Easter triumph, Easter joy*.

Our hope is that these banners will remain an integral part of our Eastertime liturgical environment for many, many years. So I want to invite anyone who might be interested to take part in memorializing the banners with a donation to cover the cost of supplies and to compensate Mr. Medina for the endless hours he spent creating them for us. We would find a way to include the memorial names on the reverse of the banners and those who are memorialized by a donation would be listed in the bulletin each year on Easter Sunday. One donor has already come forward, and there would be a minimum donation amount which I'd be happy to discuss with anyone who is interested in adding their family name or the name of a deceased family member to this memorial. Just give me a call later this week.

I want to add my thanks—as I did two weeks ago at Mass—to Mr. Medina for so generously sharing his gifts in this way; we're truly blessed by his presence in our parish. But in the process of brainstorming on the final form for these banners, Mr. Medina also created a number of much smaller banners, all original pieces with a variety of Easter-related themes. These works of art will be available for auction (silent, most likely) at some time in the future, possibly at next year's Mardi Gras celebration.

As we move through these remaining five weeks of Eastertime, the images of the empty tomb and the risen Christ, surrounded by the vibrant colors of sunrise, will help us celebrate our faith that "he is risen, he is truly risen."

Fr. Bob