

Easter Message 2019

Like me, you must have been asking yourself as February snows lingered into March; “When will spring come and winter end?” In ancient times, 700 years before the birth of Christ, the Hebrew people were asking a different question: “When will the Messiah come?”

As we near the holy feast of Easter, I thought of the great promise. “Here is your God...He comes to save you.” (Is. 35:4) When the Jewish people heard these words of the prophet Isaiah, they wanted to know when, when would the Messiah come? The answer they received was this; “Then the eyes of the blind shall see, the ears of the deaf be opened; then the lame shall leap like a stag and the mute tongue sing for joy...” (Is. 35:5-6) A highway will be there, called the holy way;...it will be for His people; no traveler...shall go astray on it.” (Is. 35:8)

Isaiah’s Messianic predictions all came to be fulfilled in Christ Jesus. The blind saw, the deaf heard, the crippled walked, and the mute spoke. Christ preached that those who followed Him would find the Father. “I am the way and truth and life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (Jn. 14:6). The people in the time of Isaiah had lost their way; they were turning away from God. Isaiah was sent to them by God to make their path straight. Jesus was sent for even more: to offer salvation for souls.

Today’s world, while different than the times of Isaiah and Jesus, still presents many distractions that often cloud our judgement, and push us to sin. The fast pace and demands of work and family, the conflicts that we often find ourselves embroiled in, and the temptations that distract us can all lead us in the wrong direction.

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center is a safe haven for everyone to “come away and rest awhile.” It’s a place where you can spend time in silence and reflect on those things in your life that are keeping you from being in full communion with your God. You will have the time to re-charge your spiritual and physical batteries and be better able to face those challenges that are troubling you and making life difficult. A retreatant reflected, *“Of course life takes turns, gets busy: one starts her own family and gets lost somewhere along the way. My dreams as a child seem to have been loftier than the reality that unfolds in front of my eyes as an adult, as I am sure they often do, but why?”*

Easter is a time of awakening, re-birth, and new life. I invite you to come on a retreat. Experience the saving graces of God and awaken to the light of His Son Jesus Christ. These are the words of a recent retreatant: *“In silence, prayer and being alone with Jesus helped me to see more deeply into the ways I need to understand others and overcome my defeats, failures, and the way of doing what I wanted.”*

During this Easter season I ask you to make a sacrificial gift in the name of our Blessed Mother, to help our ministry so that it can thrive and continue to be a spiritual beacon in the Catholic Diocese of Spokane. As you know, our Sponsors’ Club helps our youth and other retreatants attend a weekend retreat. This fund is currently \$32,000 below the level where it needs to be. If we can restore this fund, we will be able to assist 157 of our youth and others in financial need to attend a weekend retreat. Please prayerfully consider making a gift to Immaculate Heart this Easter. God bless you and your family!

Your Servant in Christ,



Deacon John Ruscheinsky, Director