



Spiritual Care Notes: April 2018

This year, April 1, 2018 marks the highest holiday of the Church, Easter! Alleluia! Easter Sunday is the most important Sunday in the year and begins a fifty-day celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead and culminates in his Ascension to the Father and the sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church on Pentecost Sunday, May 20, 2018.

The following is quoted from the [Most Precious Blood Catholic Church website](#):

The primary symbols of Easter are the symbols of baptism... That's right, baptism is shown with water, light and the color white. The Easter egg has become a popular sign of Easter. In ancient Egypt and Persia, people were amazed how a live creature came from an egg. Christians adopted this tradition as it represented the tomb from which Jesus came forth to new life. Easter bunnies are also pre-Christian fertility symbolism because of rabbits' reputation to reproduce rapidly. Somewhere in Germany several hundred years ago grew the custom of eggs and candy bunnies. The Easter Bunny has never had a religious meaning.

It is interesting to note these celebration traditions make the season fun for children, but are not the real teachings of the Christian faith – except for the part about our baptism. You could call them fake news. The adults in the room might want to know more about the religious truths that are part of this wonderful fifty day celebration.

In our baptism we die like Christ to sin and after being immersed in the cleansing waters of our baptism we are able to rise to new life in Christ. We are reminded at Easter to have the courage to live like Christ. Do not be afraid. Jesus came to this earth in human form as the suffering servant whose death and resurrection assures us all of eternal life. Because Christ died for our sins and rose again to life means we too will die and be resurrected to eternal life with God in heaven. Christ was victorious over the evil that brought about his death. Like Christ, we too can be victorious over sin and evil. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. Nothing can separate us from the ones we love. We shall all meet again sometime in paradise.

Jesus is the Good News. Good wins out over evil. May our eyes be opened to see more clearly God's love for us and may we see and show God's love in all and to all we meet. If we all chose to live like Jesus, maybe the daily news we receive would be more joyful. There is no fake news here, only the truth and the love of God shared with others. May Easter begin the season of Good News!

During the fifty day Easter celebration each Mass ends with a special dismissal: "Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia," to which everybody responds, "Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia."

May we all respond alleluia, alleluia! May we all do great things and make Good News!

***Janet Hutchison,
Director of Mission and Spiritual Care***