

He is not in the Tomb, He is Risen – Easter Sunday April 12th, 2020(Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, Jn20:1-9/Mt 28:1-10) By Fr Emmanuel Subaar

It is exactly one year today April 12 when I was assigned to Immaculate Conception Parish after I arrived in the United States on April 10th last year. I remember a parishioner telling me that the way she sees me, I would enjoy working in the parish, and indeed she was right. I have so far enjoyed my ministry in the parish, and I extend my gratitude to all parishioners both in Laurel and Waynesboro.

Indeed, this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. We celebrate the most joyful time in our Church the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Christ is indeed alive, and he is alive in our hearts. None of us is left out of the joy and happiness of this day.

The resurrection of Christ is not a mere resuscitation like that of Lazarus and Jairus' daughter. It is rather a total transformation, from death to life eternal and from darkness to undimmed light. The Body of Jesus was wrapped, buried and a stone was rolled to cover the tomb, and soldiers were assigned to guard the tomb. In fact, the world wanted to keep Jesus dead. They wanted to make sure that he was really dead. They knew Jesus had promised he would rise on the third day and they did not want that promise to be fulfilled.

They wanted to keep Jesus in the tomb, but today's gospel tells us that the tomb is empty. Mary Magdalene goes to discover that the tomb is empty. Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved run to discover that the tomb is empty. The Angel asked the women at the empty tomb, "Why do you search for the living among

the dead?” When we are searching for the dead, we usually go to the tombs. But this should not be for Jesus, He is not there, He is risen. Jesus is no more limited by space and time and he can be found in our hearts.

Do you believe that the tomb is empty, and that Christ is alive and alive in our hearts? St. Paul admonishes us in 1Corinthians 15:14, “If Christ did not rise from the dead, then our faith would have been in vain.” Let us encourage ourselves with this good news, that Christ is no more in the tomb, but he is alive in our hearts and he fills our hearts with joy. May the power of the Resurrection of Jesus give hope and joy to millions of us who are going through fear and panic in the face of the Global Pandemic. Amen.