

Points to Help Homily Preparation from a JPIC Perspective

Readings of Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 12, 2009

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

Col 3: 1-4 or 1 Cor 5: 6b-8

Jn 20: 1-9 (Easter Vigil: Mk 16: 1-7)

“Do not be amazed”

“.... And he saw and believed”

- Main point: Power of the Resurrection is demonstrated in the power of belief, and is the power to transform
- Homilist can elaborate on the experience of amazement and the power of belief
- Gospel of Easter Day (Jn 20) gives us the picture of the disciple that Jesus loved as one who saw and believed
- In the Gospel of the Vigil (Mk 16), the man in the white robe told Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Solome not to be amazed
- Homilist can relate positive and negative experiences of amazement (love and dedication of a family in the face of sickness, poverty or adversity, devastation in natural disasters, heroic deeds, unbelievable cruelty and inhuman treatment of immigrants and racial profiling)
- Recall the drama of amazing cruelty to Jesus in the events of Good Friday
- The drama of Good Friday is indicative of humanity gone astray
- Easter is a celebration of God’s redemption of humankind and a challenge to get back on course
- We celebrate God’s redemption in Christ and get back on course through our belief
- The contrast between Good Friday and Easter can be amazing; but, through the power of belief, all that is inhumane, cruel, hateful, oppressive, scandalous, can be transformed; and even death gives way to new life
- Homilist can share personal or known experiences of transformation
- From a JPIC perspective, there are many examples of transforming realities:
 - Paul Rusesabagina of Hotel Rwanda
 - The story of Sr. Helen Prejean
 - People working together in community development or organization to transform neighborhood or reduce crime
 - The on-going inspiration of Oscar Romero
 - The on-going inspiration of Maximilian Kolbe
 - Volunteers responding to natural disaster
- As Christians, we believe that the power to transform is grounded in the mystery of the Resurrection -- even death is transformed into new life
- The reality of sin and death itself in Christ is transformed
- Don’t be amazed, but believe and be transformed

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