

THE PASCHAL MYSTERY as Vital Light and Might

During Holy Week, our parish community cordially invites **YOU** to take part in reflecting anew on the very heart of our Christian faith, the Paschal Mystery that we proclaim in every Eucharist: **“Dying you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory!”** What meaning *does* it shed on our life-stories? And what direction does it give to our life-projects?

Holy Week Retreat - 15-17 April 2019 - Blessed Sacrament Parish

April 15, Monday ☩ 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

FAITH AS *VIA CRUCIS* (Way of the Cross)

A comparative study of major religions reveals that the primal question of the human spirit is not “does God exist?” –but “why do humans suffer and die?” In light of the Gospel, God answers the latter by sending Someone to share both sorrow and question of suffering humanity. Thus, the way of the cross becomes the very ground of saving communion with God. *How so?*

April 16, Tuesday ☩ 9:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

HOPE AS *RISUS PASCHALIS* (Easter Laughter)

From the early Church till medieval Christianity, a popular belief persisted in Europe: that, as Christ rose from death, he broke out in laughter. In its light the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr asserts that “humor is a prelude to faith, and laughter is the beginning of prayer.” *Just what has a kindly sense of humor got to do with Christian spirituality?*

April 17, Wednesday ☩ 9:00 A.M.

THE SEDER AS *EUCHARIST* (Thanksgiving)

Gratitude is the festive spirit animating the two Passover meals – the Jewish *Seder* and the Christian *Eucharist*. St Paul repeatedly adds the adverb “always” to three vital verbs: pray, give thanks, and be glad. Doing all three “always” makes for a lived adventure of faith, hope and love. *How so?*

7:00 P.M. ☩ LET’S CELEBRATE THE SEDER

“The last meal Jesus had with his apostles was the Seder meal of Passover. The Seder meal is a retelling of how the Jews were liberated from Egyptian slavery. In celebrating the Seder with the Eucharist, we too celebrate our freedom from the slavery of sin and death.”

