

Savor life during this Easter season

Happy Easter.

I hope that your celebration of the holy feast continues in a rich way, that it gives you renewed vision to perceive and savor the freshness of life the Risen One brings to all of us.

The Holy Week celebrations at Sacred Heart Cathedral are still part of my Easter awareness. They offered wonderful moments for us to be aware of the utter goodness of God.

They also provided encouraging reminders of the life and holiness we enjoy in the Easter sacraments, and of our vocation to share with others the gifts our God has so generously lavished on all of us.

When I remember those great gatherings, I think of dear sisters and brothers who became members of our church at the Easter Vigil.

To me they are signs of Christ's love for us and evidence that he is indeed with us always. Those dear new friends remind us to reflect on the mystery of the new life we share in Christ.

Last week in "Along the Way," I encouraged you to be in touch with the great Gospel stories that speak to us of Easter life. They raise up themes that find deep places in the human heart. I mean such themes as renewal, hospitality, community, peace, reconciliation, hope, sacrifice, purpose and meaning.

To that suggested list, please add freely

along the way



BY BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

any themes that speak to you of life. Please listen to and savor what the great Easter stories say to your heart and be ready to respond to their call.

Now I add the invitation that you approach the events, associations and circumstances of the days ahead with a vision renewed by Easter.

By that I mean two things: 1) that you be open to the presence of God in all you experience and 2) that you try to bring some Easter gift to those experiences.

I do not know what experiences you anticipate in the days ahead. But, whatever they may be, I hope that you will be able to find in them and bring to them something of the loving touch of the Risen Christ.

As I write on this Easter day, I am looking forward to a trip to Waterford to enjoy Easter dinner with my family. I know that I will find life there and much encouragement. Such gifts are always present when the family gathers.

There will be great joy in Julie's beauty and growth. There will be much happy anticipation of the arrival of her new sibling in early May.

Another gift of the days ahead will be the opportunity to see Howard Hubbard who on Holy Thursday celebrated the 20th anniversary of his ordination as bishop of the Albany Diocese. It will be a joy to gather with friends to celebrate the gift Howard has been and is to our lives and to the life of the church.

I am also looking forward to spending time with Father Tom Powers, another very dear friend. I see Tom every Easter because he is always a lively contributor to our family celebrations. Recent surgery makes it impossible for Tom to join us this year so I'll be going to visit him at St. John the Baptist Church in Valatie, where he is pastor.

I know in advance that it will be a joy to be with Tom even in such a challenging moment. That is because he has such a faith-filled perspective on life that he can find the good, the promising, even the humorous in almost every circumstance.

My best to you, dear friend, as you move through this Easter time. I hope you will find life in it. I hope that you will bring life to it. In all of it, I hope that we can pray for one another and especially for those dear sisters and brothers who became one with us on the Easter feast.

Peace to all.

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