

# HOMILY

## *Easter Sunday*

*April 12, 2009*

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Easter is all about a four letter word. And Christians are full of it or at least we're supposed to be full of it. The four letter word is ***LIFE!***

*New life!*

*Whole life!*

*Abundant life!*

*Redeemed life!*

*Resurrected life!*

Easter says the purpose of life is not death. The purpose of life is life—a life that triumphs over death forever. Letting God Easter in us is a celebration of all that is good, all that is true, and all that is beautiful. Easter is having an Easter heart. Do you have an Easter heart? What are some of the ways that you can tell if you have an Easter heart?

♥ *An Easter heart is full of new life.*

♥ *An Easter heart is full of a new mission, full of new possibilities.*

An Easter Church that is filled with Easter hearts continues to offer signs of new life to the world.

♥ *An Easter heart is full of rock-rollers.*

Notice I didn't say *rock-and-rollers*. I did say rock-rollers. The first sign of the Resurrection, as we learn from a distraught Mary Magdalene, was that the rock had been rolled away from the tomb's entrance. Everybody, even Jesus' resurrected body, needs to be offered a way out.

Rock-rollers offer ways to all sorts of people, trapped in all kinds of tombs. Strengthened by an Easter heart, we can roll away despair and reveal a path to hope. We can roll away delusions—delusions like: "If I were rich I'd be happy." Delusions like: "The next promotion will get me everything I want." "If I had things, I'd be successful."

♥ ***An Easter heart casts away fear and is filled with trust.***

Rock-rolling isn't a one-person job. It takes a community of Easter hearts to get those rocks rolling in the right direction.

♥ ***An Easter heart is filled with laughter and joy.***

The Resurrection is a testimony to the adage: "He who laughs last laughs best!" The Sanhedrin who crucified Jesus thought they had the last laugh. The Roman authorities thought they had the last laugh. The cruel crowds and the sadistic soldiers thought they had the last laugh. But what happened on Easter proved that God has the last laugh. Those who thought they triumphed over Jesus were trumped by Jesus' triumph over death itself.

In Germany there is at Easter what is called "Easter laughter." A German pastor intentionally inserts jokes into his Easter sermon. The church, they feel, should ring with laughter on Easter Sunday, enjoying fully the divine sense of the final answer.

Finally, and this is the most important sign of an Easter heart:

♥ ***An Easter heart will be a broken heart.***

The promise of Easter Sunday is not that your heart won't break. In fact, the promise of Easter Sunday is that if you love, your heart will break. For God so loved the world, God's heart broke. The Cross is a symbol of God's broken heart. A broken heart is the price of love.

But in the end, out of that broken heart God will birth a new heart. Is your heart breaking this Easter Sunday? Is our church's heart breaking this Easter Sunday? An Easter heart is a person after God's own heart, a heart that beats for the least, the last, and the lost.

Do you have a heart after God's own heart? If you do, then get ready. God will call your name and fill your broken heart.

I pray that God will Easter in you. I pray that God will give you an Easter heart.

