

From Fr. Mike's Desk

Fear is defined as an emotion induced by a threat and causes a person or animal to pull back or run away. It is a basic survival mechanism and comes about from the ability to recognize danger. In some cases, fear is so great, that a person could be frozen and not respond. Fear is one of the basic emotions, and it can be a response to future events or to a present unacceptable situation. Some common fears are ghosts and demons, evil powers, insects, spiders, snakes, rodents, birds, heights, public speaking, clowns, rejection and finally (in more ways than one) death. Fear, no matter what the cause, tends to incapacitate us and keeps us from living our life to its fullest. Fear can disturb us and cause us to hide from everything, even God. Look at Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden after they ate the forbidden fruit. Adam hides from God when he realizes that he is naked, as he was afraid to face God.

What does fear have to do with today's great celebration of Easter? The answer is nothing, and I am not kidding around! Consider the words of today's Gospel, according to Matthew. In two places, the women who go to Jesus' tomb are told not to be afraid. We see this first when the angel who comes down from Heaven, to remove the stone from the tomb, tells them, *"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified."* After they see where the body of Jesus was, they go to Galilee to tell the Apostles what they have seen. On the way there, the women come face to face with the Risen Jesus. Our Lord tells the women, for a second time, *"Do not be afraid."* Now we may understand why the women might have been afraid, thinking perhaps they were seeing a ghost. Certainly, they were experiencing something completely new, yet they were told not to be afraid, and it appears that once they got over their initial shock they were not. In fact, they were filled with great joy. Why not, what was there to fear? Jesus has risen from the dead, He is not a ghost or a mere shadow of Himself, no Jesus has become something very new. Just as there was no reason to fear 2017 years ago, there is nothing to fear now or ever. For just as Jesus had and has become something very new, so has all of humanity. His Resurrection is our resurrection and through it we have become citizens of the Kingdom of God. What is there to fear; for Christ has conquered sin and death, and has removed all things that stand

between God the Father and humanity. So the words of the angel and Jesus are now being spoken to us. As Jesus tells us in another part of the Gospel, *"Fear is useless, what is necessary is trust."* Trust in Him, and let nothing stand in your way of doing what Jesus told the women on the first Easter Sunday, *"Go tell my brothers [and the whole world] that I have risen."*

On behalf of Father Hyacinth, Deacon Jim, Deacon Tom Connolly our Director of Ministries and Administration, our Finance Director Miquel DeLeon, our Director of Religious Education Rosemary Pettei, our School Principal Vincent Albrecht, Sr. Sheila Browne our RCIA Director, Mary Mullan our Youth Minister, our Music Directors Jeff and Marilyn Fox, Cecilia Hayden our Children's Choir, Michelle Sena our Director of our Youth Choir, Vision, and the entire Staff of Saint Edward's we wish you and your family a very Happy Easter!

Fr. Mike

