



Happy Easter

It's been my tradition now to send out an Easter Issue of the LEAD Story which highlights the experiences of the Brothers in different retreat locations this year: Dasmariñas, Philippines; Malacca, Malaysia; and Minburi, Thailand.

It was also a special retreat: We were privileged to have - not one - but three General Councillors as facilitators! My heartfelt thanks goes to Brs. Gustavo, Paulo, and Ricky for their marvellous preparation and material which inspired all of us this Holy Week.

Let's not forget to thank the local Brothers who were the perfect hosts to Brothers who flew in from other countries: Brs. Andrew and Ambrose in Malaysia, Brs. Joe and Teerayut in Thailand, and Brs. JJ, Rey, and Chuck in the Philippines. From what I've heard from the Brothers, everything was perfect! From airport pick-up, venue, and food. Keep up the good work!

Easter Vigil Shared Reflection: Br. Patrick Tierney FSC

Pope Francis recently said that homilies should be prepared well and not last more than 10 minutes. But priests in Africa say that if their homilies did not last at least half an hour their people would feel 'undernourished'.

*And then there was the priest in Ireland who, having read the Gospel of the Beatitudes, turned to his congregation in perplexity saying: "The Bishop has written a letter telling me to give a sermon every Sunday but you have just heard the best sermon ever given, so I don't know what I'm supposed to add!" He then blessed himself and sat down. That's what I would like to do now but I suspect that even we Brothers would feel a bit short-changed. So I must say something. **(Continued)***





Our Holy Founder as you know had a great regard for Scripture and even wanted us to carry the New Testament around with us. I don't know if you are like me. I taught the Scriptures for years and felt I had a pretty good knowledge of it, especially of the New Testament. And yet, almost every time I read or listen to it I find some something new or find a new thought.

The something new or new thought in today's Gospel from Mark is the last sentence. Well, actually in the verse that for some reason or other is omitted. (Continued)

It is not necessary, I think, to dwell on the fact that this account of the response of the women to the empty tomb and to the angel contradicts that of others, such as Luke. Some say this is a sign of the truthfulness of the Gospels.



According to Mark, “Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone because they were afraid.” Yet, a refrain of Jesus was ‘do not be afraid.’ I wonder are we, too, afraid. What am I afraid of? (Continued)



*For starters, I'm afraid of what has been happening all week. I'm afraid of suffering agony, of being betrayed, of any form of scourging, of the insults or spittle of thorns, of carrying a heavy cross and of crucifixions, of spears piercing my body or spirit. I take consolation in the teaching of some spiritual writers who say that we don't need to look for crosses. Daily life, Community life, will supply enough of them. **(Continued)***

Only one religion has a God who cared enough to become a man and die for us, die on a cross. But thanks be to God for the Resurrection. While the Cross remains a main symbol of our religion, the Resurrection gives meaning to it.

And so there remains the main message of these ramblings, do not be afraid. He is risen. Alleluia!



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