

April 15, 2018: Peace Be With You!

Dear Parishioners,

The week after Easter I went to Orange County CA, my old stomping grounds for over 30 years. It was nice to soak up the sun, take in some hikes along the coast, foothills and canyons, not have to wear a jacket, and to catch up with some friends. However, it was good to come home, it 'felt' like home when the pilot giving the weather report in Seattle said, "And, yes, it's raining."

The rain sustains and makes things grow and gives us that unique beauty we enjoy. I was excited to see what was happening in the garden in front of the rectory with all the bulbs I planted last fall and to see the foliage coming on the trees I planted. I was not disappointed; the tulips are opening up and the foliage is coming in. I went for a walk on my favorite route through Woodway and an elderly man with a beautiful big smile looked at me and said, "Spring is on the way!"-- lest I had any doubt.

There are wars and rumors of war, divisions and violence, poverty, hunger and plague. Still, the sap is rising, again there is the resurrection of spring. It is God's sign and continued promise to us that he is with us always, with his comfort of joy. Spring is the sign of Easter, the renewal and resurrection we long for.

The profound message of Easter is what Our Lord wished to impress upon his disciples when he greeted them after his rising: "Peace be with you, why are you troubled?" There are so many things that trouble us these days and Our Lord is telling us spring is here, the renewal has begun, everything is going be alright. If anyone else but Jesus were saying "Peace be with you" we would have reason to doubt it. But this is Jesus who just went through the horror of the cross and an agonizing death. "Peace be with you." Jesus has overcome the world with all its imperfections, evil and death and can look us in the eye with a beautiful smile on his face and say, "Peace be with you." Lest we have any doubt that spring is on the way.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent