

The Resurrection shows us that God is love, and God's love is stronger than death, and Jesus is life-giving.

Good for Jesus. But so what? Who cares? What difference does it make? What's in it for me? When we keep the Resurrection in mind, it frames our attitudes and our outlook on life: it takes away our fears, it gives us enduring joy, and it guarantees a happy ending.

But the trick is keeping it in mind. Us knuckleheads need to ask God for help, God's grace, to keep the Resurrection in mind when things go south for us. We have to ask God for that kind of mental staying power so we can experience the blessings of the Resurrection in this life.

We tend to forget the promise of the Resurrection when we hear all the evil in the news: Coronavirus, murders, wars, hunger, poverty, discrimination, greed, cheating – all kinds of evil.

And we also tend to forget the promise of the Resurrection when we personally experience evil: when we're rejected, betrayed, done wrong, thwarted from getting what we want, and then we slide into a self-pity party of "life is so unfair, poor me, why me." And I can throw a great self-pity party. I can be a knucklehead, too, and forget the Resurrection.

We slip into this every time we forget we can't just expect Easter Sundays. We have Good Friday first, then Easter Sunday. That's the pattern of Christian life – this cycle of sufferings, deaths and resurrections throughout our lives. Let's ask God for this pattern of Christian life to sink deeper into our minds and hearts.

Let it become the default setting of our expectations: that happiness comes from following Christ through the cross into resurrection. I encourage you to watch a movie or read a book about any saint, and you'll see it's true – all of their lives show this cycle recurring.

Despite all the evil we hear in the news, and all the evil we personally experience in our lives, God is still in charge. All the evils in the news do not have the last word. Our sufferings do not have the last word. Death does not have the last word. The love of God given to us in Jesus Christ has the last word. God works tremendous good out of our tragedies.

The Resurrection brings us joy because even in our difficulties, it reminds us with certainty, that when everything is said and done, we are infinitely loved.

So we experience the blessings of the Resurrection in this life and at the happy ending in store for faithful Christians. No matter how difficult the adventures in our lives are, Christ has risen from death to life, and he promises us we will too. Our problems, our difficulties, our pains, will all pass away.

There is probably someone you know who needs to hear the story that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive and wants to fill our lives with healing and joy. You may be the only one who can reach them. Share with them what a difference the Resurrection makes for you. Bring them some joy.

Fr. John Ozella, Christ the King, Easter Homily, April 12, 2020