

Homily
Easter Vigil
Our Lady Queen of Peace
March 22, 2008

I

What we celebrate on this glorious night is the truth that life surely is not destined for nothingness. In Jesus' Resurrection humanity is assured of meaning - ultimate meaning. Indeed, we are assured of final transcendence.

And this is such Good News! Rightly, our sentiments tonight are those of enormous joy. He has risen! We shall live!

Just look at us in this church, in this celebrating community!

II

At the same time this remarkable event in human history and for our times is not only a gift to us - it's not only about us.

In the Eucharistic Prayer which we shall recite in a few moments here we shall hear the words: "by rising from the dead He destroyed death and restored life; and that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Him, He sent the Holy Spirit to those who would believe in Him, **SO THAT WE MIGHT COMPLETE HIS WORK ON EARTH...**"

The Latin American Church has a wonderful way of putting all of this. They say that we are in the time of "ya y todavia" - already and not yet.

Tonight we celebrate the "already". Jesus has "already" risen. Life is "already" assured.

But now we are charged to bring about the "not yet". Humanity has "not yet" achieved the unity, peace, freedom, justice and universal charity that was Jesus' work on earth. That is now our sacred vocation.

Conclusion

Later in tonight's Eucharistic celebration we shall declare ourselves as "those who wait in joyful hope for the final coming of the Risen Christ". Again, the language of our Hispanic sisters and brothers gives us an insight. "Waiting" in Spanish is not a passive attitude at all. "Esperar" to wait is also a verb that means "hope": active, purposeful, decisive hope.

That is our challenge on this glorious Easter Vigil: to actively, in hope filled ways to complete on earth the work our Risen Jesus began during His time and at His place on earth.