

## Easter Homily

We know who Jesus of Nazareth is. We know that Jesus was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We know what Jesus taught. We know that Jesus died. But there is something about Jesus that we don't know.

What happened in Jesus' tomb? We only know that God raised Jesus from the dead. But we don't know how He did it. Did He stand outside Jesus' tomb and call out his name and tell him to rise; just like Jesus did for Lazarus?

What is going to happen when we die? Will God do the same thing for us? Will there be a resurrection and a judgment for me? Absolutely yes!

In the seventh and eighth grade at Sacred Heart School in Grosse Ile, Michigan my classmates and I got to experience a preview of the resurrection and judgment twice per year. That's when our pastor, Fr. Hurley, would come into the classroom and hand out the report cards.

It was all done in alphabetical order so I was able to get it over with quickly. Out of nearly forty-five classmates I was always the second on the list; right after Mary Beth Armstrong. When Father called your name you had to stand up and move to the front of the room and stand next to "Sister's" desk; facing Father. That was the preview of the resurrection; getting out of your seat and walking up to where Father was seated. It was sort of like having to walk up before God's throne at that age.

Next came the dreaded part where Father would be handed your report card from Sister, open it up, scan it with his eyes, and then begin reading your grades for each subject out loud so that all your classmates could hear the good news. Sister had warned us beforehand, just like they do in a courtroom, not to have any vocal outbursts when the verdict is read.

There were several cases every report card session where it was not possible to refrain from vocal outbursts, collectively, by the entire class. After all, our classmates had earned the bad grades they were given; especially in the area of the report card marked: Conduct. Sister had frequently given verbal warnings to the worst offenders throughout the school year about the consequences of disruptive behavior in class. There were no surprises in that area. Steven was the most notorious offender and probably ended up in the State Penitentiary; just as Sister had predicted numerous times. Anyway, Father's reading of your grades in front of the class was the judgment.

Unlike my classmate Steven there are people who don't believe in God. Will they be raised from the dead too? Will there be a judgment for them? Yes, they will be raised from the dead and judged by Jesus. Regardless of one's beliefs in this life, everybody gets to participate.

What do I need to be doing with the rest of my life to be worthy of being in God's presence in heaven for all eternity? The sacred scriptures, the Word of God, reveal the answer.

"Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened unto you."