



Happy Easter

April 2015

Happy Easter! Alleluia! It is the day of the Lord's Resurrection. Death has been conquered by God's love. The 40 days of Lent have ended and the 50 days Easter are now before us. The fasting is over and the feasting begins.

Every year during Lent I always seem to be involved in a few discussions relative to the exact number of days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. If you count the number of days on a calendar, it comes to more than 40. There are actually 46. How can this be? I still remember as a child first hearing the phrase, "Sunday doesn't count" when it comes to the 40 days. It did not matter to me at that time that the reason why there were actually 46 days in Lent was that every Sunday was considered a "little Easter" even during Lent. The meaning to me was clear. I could suspend my childhood fasting from candy every Sunday. It was an oasis in the midst of a kid's counting 40 long days of Lent.

Although the spirit of Lent does remain even on Sunday, I always enjoyed a little break from my lenten sacrifices when I was growing up. In a couple of recent conversations this year I learned that it appears that only people who grew up in New England have this sense of Sunday's not counting. What a gift!

As we look back on this season and reflect on our Lenten activities, let us not so much remember the times when we failed but rather on what we were able to accomplish and the unexpected graces and surprises that came our way. In this Easter season as we witness the dramatic transformation of Jesus disciples in the Scriptures, let us pray that we too may be blessed with the Spirit to be bold and courageous witnesses to Jesus life, death and resurrection.

God bless you all with the joy of Christ's new and Risen life!

Fr. Mike