

The Easter vigil. The mother of all liturgies. Tonight we are bombarded with images of light and darkness, with stories that speak of creation and deliverance , with songs that sing of healing waters and divine embraces. We are bombarded with sounds and smells, sights. tastes and touch that dare to proclaim that **one was dying to live.** (thank you Linda Chavez for that line from your brilliant and moving Good Friday homily!)

Holy mother church does not do all things well. We know this. But tonight she is at her best. Tonight she is mothering us, daring us to hope against hope that our bruised, broken battered world is redeemed in Jesus Christ. Yes. There is so much to fear BUT with the Risen Jesus there is nothing to fear. Yes there is so much that sounds the death knoll BUT in the Risen Jesus there is so much that rings true and sings of life and love. Yes there is so much to doubt in this cruel world which bombards us with acts of violence, terror and war, chemical weapons used against children and threats of nuclear bombs and where some dare to associate the word Mother with a weapon of mass destruction BUT there is so much to believe in when we come to know the victory of love over hate and life over death in Jesus Christ.

The women came to the tomb with their world shattered and their hopes and dreams demolished. But. Something was not as the world wanted but rather as our mothering fathering God wanted. Through the execution of Love itself on the Cross, our upside down world was righted. Every act of human cruelty from the beginning of time until the end of time was captured and conquered by One who was dying to live, dying to

life, dying to Love. And this is the One whom the women encounter as they flee from the tomb in disbelief. Jesus the Risen One is on the Way with them. Telling them to bring the good news to the other disciples, who will not believe in these “women’s tales” until they see for themselves that He is Risen as he said.

Jean, Fatima, Anna, Ines, Cooper, you have seen for yourselves that Jesus is the One and Only source of life for you. Tonight you will enter the womb of God, the one who calls you to a new way of being you. (not that there is anything wrong with the old way of being you), Jesus is wading in the waters, waiting in the waters, wanting to share with you his dying to life. Are you ready? Will you dare to believe that death does not have the last word? Will you dare to believe that in Christ Jesus all is made new?