Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Due to the Coronavirus threat and shelter in place order, it is safe to say that our 2020 observance of Lent, Holy Week and perhaps, Easter itself, will be remembered by most of us as being the most unusual thus far, of our lifetimes. You are remembered each time that our church bells toll! Know that you are missed! Offering mass each day without your physical presence provides an important intention that we will soon celebrate together as a community of faith, hope and love.

One of the fascinating things about the Easter story is the sudden change in the disciples. One minute they’re defeated, the next minute they’re dynamic. One minute they’re crushed, the next minute they’re confident. One minute they’re having a pity party, the next minute they’re taking on the world. What made the difference?

Jesus – giving them the confidence to start over.

Have you ever been halfway through a project or a career or “shelter in place” and wanted to start over? Or halfway through your life or the “Coronavirus threat” and wanted to start over? Jesus says, “You can start over. I am going to help you.” Jesus wants to help us. That’s the good news of Easter.
But we say we feel like Humpty Dumpty. Take all the king’s horses and all the King’s men, but nothing is going to put us back together again. Wrong. Jesus specializes in new beginnings. He wants to do something fresh in our life. That’s what Easter is all about: starting over.

It’s never too late to start over. God says, “There is hope! I don’t care how low you go or where you’ve been.” Failure is never final unless we let it be. The message of Easter is that Jesus doesn’t care where you’ve been or what your past has been. What matters is the direction of your feet right now. Where are you headed?

The good news of Easter is that Jesus rose from the dead. I know that it’s a cliché, but this Easter can be the first day of the rest of your life. Jesus Christ wants to give you the confidence to start over, and to keep going.

Perhaps you know people who are barely hanging on. Read the Easter story with them or for them. Encourage them to begin again. Remind them of the possibilities for new growth and fresh starts. Pray that the Risen Christ give each one of us the power and confidence to pick ourselves up and start over.

On behalf of our parish staff and myself, I pray that you are blessed with peace this Easter and remain healthy and safe until we gather in the loving embrace of the Risen Lord.

Sincerely,

Rev. Jerome P. Foley