



EASTER HOMILY - MARCH 31, 2024

Easter Vigil: Genesis 1:1-22 Exodus 14:15-15:1

Isiah 55:1-11 Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-10

Easter: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

Night Flying

How many here have been on a plane that went over the Pacific Ocean? Maybe heading to Hawaii.

Here's a story of some people who did just that and didn't realize the adventure of their trip.

Once upon a time, in fact not very long ago, a plane was on a long stretch of a night flight across the Pacific Ocean. The plane had long ago settled down; dinner had been served, the movies were over, the cabin was dark, and there were only the sounds of sleep; snoring, breathing, occasional coughs, and the squirming of people too long in seats. Unbeknownst to everyone except a few in the cockpit, the plane's communication and navigation systems failed and the instrument panel went dark. They were hours out from landfall. Even the automatic pilot was gone. Frantically, the flight engineer worked on basic systems. Nothing seemed to work. The pilots were trying not to panic, yet they were not sure even what direction they were hurtling in or what country they were flying toward at over 600 mph.

There were no landmarks, and finally they decided to tell the stewardesses and stewards if they could discreetly find anyone among the passengers who might have electronics skills. It seemed a long, long wait. Finally, a passenger was brought to the cockpit by a stewardess. "What do you know?" the woman was asked. "What field of electronics are you an expert in?" She answered that she wasn't knowledgeable in

any electronics field, but she was sure that she could be of help. The people in the cockpit were irritated. "Then why are you here?" If you do not know anything about electronics or computers get out of here!" one of them said. "Sir," she tried calming him, "tell me what your problem is and I'm sure I can help you." Her voice was quiet and sure. One of the others in the cockpit snapped back, "Can't you tell?! Our instrumentation has stopped working. We do not even know where we are and here we are at least five hours out from land, stranded over an ocean in the middle of the night!"

She smiled and said, "Ah, I can help you. I have some knowledge that is failsafe. It never has failed in the past, and it won't fail us now." They looked at her in disbelief and mistrust. "What are you talking about?" "The heavens, my friends, are what I am talking about! The stars will be our guide. Show me your maps over the ocean and the ones for your destination. The stars I know like the back of my hand."

The woman, in the late fifties, was an astronomer. She sat beside the pilot for the rest of the trip. She sat with the map of their destination on her lap and her eyes glued to the skies. She kept them steady and calmed them with her skill at reading the heavens, her obvious love and familiarity with the night sky and the stars, and just at dawn, the plane landed on schedule at its destination, with the majority of the passengers utterly unaware of the drama of the night.

(story from **And Morning Came** by Megan McKenna, Sheed and Ward, 2003, p. 176-177)

As Christians we have a knowledge that never fails; Jesus Christ has risen from the dead!

It is the map in our heart, so to speak, it guides everything that we do – at least it should, especially in the times that our lives are dark.

We are called to practice the resurrection.

How? Live Holy Moments.

We make a choice to live the resurrection by making choices to live holy moments.

It adds meaning to our lives no matter what our age or circumstance we find ourselves in.

I invite us to bring the resurrection of Jesus Christ – and our future resurrection – to bear on the choices we make.

Easter becomes a way of life.

Easter reminds us we should not be passengers on this earth utterly unaware of God's presence.

We are pilgrims, not tourists here. We are called to be messengers of the Lord's resurrection to everyone we meet.

Happy Easter enjoy the flight of your life. Amen.