

WHAT IS THE VERY FOUNDATION STONE OF MY FAITH?

WHAT IS THE ONE THING, THAT FOR ME, IS THE CRUCIAL THING THAT I BASE MY WHOLE BELIEF SYSTEM IN?

THERE OBVIOUSLY CAN BE A GREAT RANGE OF FACTS ABOUT MY FAITH THAT ANSWERS THAT QUESTION. IT MAY BE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FROM OUR FIRST READING. IT MAY BE JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS THAT PAUL TALKS ABOUT IN OUR SECOND READING.

IT MAY BE MY BELIEF IN JESUS WITH US IN HOLY COMMUNION THAT IS THE CORNER STONE OF MY FAITH. THE MASS, DEVOTION TO MARY OR ANGELS OR A PARTICULAR SAINT MAY BE BIG FOR ME.

WHAT WAS THE VERY FIRST THING THAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED AFTER PENTECOST? THE ONE DRIVING ELEMENT THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN, FROM THOSE FIRST DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY, THE POWER BEHIND THE FAITH

OF OUR CHURCH IS IN FACT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

THE ONE, BASIC KEystone TO OUR FAITH IS FOUND TUCKED AWAY IN OUR GOSPEL.

JESUS SAYS: “DESTROY THIS SANCTUARY AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP.” HE WAS SPEAKING OF THE SANCTUARY THAT WAS HIS BODY.

“AND WHEN HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD, HIS DISCIPLES REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD SAID THIS, AND THEY BELIEVED THE SCRIPTURE AND THE WORDS HE HAD SAID.”

THE KEystone OF OUR FAITH IS THAT JESUS CHANGED FROM BEING A DEAD MAN IN A TOMB TO A MAN ALIVE WITH NEW LIFE.

ST. PAUL TELLS US THAT IF JESUS IS NOT NOW ALIVE WE ARE THE MOST FOOLISH OF PEOPLE FOR DOING WHAT

WE DO. IF JESUS IS NOT ALIVE, EVERYTHING WE NOW DO IS A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT. OUR CHURCH OUR MASS, OUR SACRAMENTS, OUR PRAYER, OUR TRYING TO LIVE WITH SOME KIND OF FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD, IS ALL COMPLETE FOOLISHNESS AND HAS BEEN A WASTE OF TIME.

IS THAT HOW I WANT TO LOOK BACK ON MY YEARS OF BEING A CATHOLIC? MY STRUGGLES TO BE LIVING A LIFE OF FAITH, OF MARRIAGE AND PARENTHOOD LIVED IN SOME KIND OF FAITH AND HOPE? OF COURSE NOT!

IN TWENTY NINE DAYS WE WILL AGAIN BE CELEBRATING EASTER, RESURRECTION DAY, THE HIGH FEAST OF OUR FAITH. THE DAY OF REMEMBERING THE MOST UNIQUE DAY IN THE HISTORY OF HUMANITY. THE DAY WHEN A DEAD MAN CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD, LEFT HIS TOMB, HIS BURIAL CLOTHS, AND WALKED FREE.

THIS TIME OF LENT IS THE TIME TO PREPARE OURSELVES TO REJOICE OVER THIS FACT. A TIME TO REMEMBER THAT THIS LIFE IS NOT EVERYTHING WE HAVE. THIS, OUR LIFE, IS A PREPARATION TO JOIN JESUS IN HIS LIVING FREE, FOREVER.

IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, AND ONLY THERE, DOES ANYTHING ABOUT OUR LIFE AND OUR DEATH MAKE ANY SENSE. THIS IS OUR FAITH. THIS IS THE FAITH OF THE CHURCH. AND WE ARE PROUD TO PROFESS IT IN CHRIST JESUS, OUR LORD.