

Sermon 2007 Easter 2 (Quasimodogeniti Sunday)
Text: Rev. 1:4-18
Theme: "Easter's Over. Now What?"

Easter's over. Now what? We build and build all through the season of Lent. Everything ramps up for Holy Week and then BAM! It's over and we come to the odd day that used to be called Quasimodogeniti Sunday. The name for this Sunday comes not from the hunchback of Notre Dame, but it is Latin for the first three words of the Introit, "like newborn infants."

We heard the account of the Resurrection again last Sunday, but we are a bit jaded. We are people of science and like Thomas, we think this whole coming back from the dead thing is a little bit of a stretch. We do all the required stuff like going to church and giving something to God, but unless our social structure is woven into this place, we stay like newborn infants. Our faith just barely stays alive until we wander back to this place in a few weeks, or months to tank up again.

"Feed My Starving Children" is an organization that our High School Youth have served by giving money and physically putting together the food shipments. In fact, at the last High School Youth Zone, the Trinity team helped assemble and pay for over

100,000 meals which means that an entire village will be fed for a year. The people from "Feed My Starving Children" show pictures of a child who was 9 years old and weighed about 20 lbs. It is amazing that the human body can live like that but it does. It just slows way down and tries to survive on whatever little there is. That same child, in just a few months of eating the meals we had prepared, had bulked up to almost 3 times his previous weight and grown a couple inches too.

Our faith is the same as our physical bodies. We can survive on very little nourishment. But in our Introit for today, St. Peter encourages us to eat! He wants us to long for pure spiritual milk as a newborn baby longs for physical milk. He wants us, now that we have seen the miracle of the resurrection, to GROW UP in our faith. Time to GROW UP!

Like Thomas, it would be easy to play our part in the Easter saga and then go right back to life, denying that anything miraculous has happened. I still have my same old aches and pains. I still have my same old debts to pay. I still have my same old nagging sins. It would be easier to just sort of go on

hiatus until Advent when we will start again – and many of us do. That’s why in a couple of months you will see the Sunday School attendance suddenly dry up, attendance in worship will drop and the offerings will plummet. Why? Because Christians go on hiatus after Easter. Everyone is vacationing – everyone that is except Satan.

Remember that he does not take a break. He is at it 100% 100% of the time. And you can bet money on this. He loves this time of year when we begin letting our guard down and getting sloppy in nourishing our faith, because that is when he makes progress.

See our Christian walk is not on a treadmill. Sometimes we act like it is – like we’re walking on a hill program on a treadmill. Up-up-up until Easter and then down-down-down until Advent when it’s up-up-up again as we start all over and do it again. Predictable, stable, boring. Have you read your Bible? There is nothing about our God that is like a treadmill. And so you can bet that there is nothing about our lives that is supposed to be like a treadmill either.

Our lives are an adventure – a journey – sometimes beside quiet waters and sometimes through the valley of the shadow of death, but John made it absolutely clear in Revelation that God has made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father. On Easter, Jesus rose for the dead and proves that you and I are now a kingdom of priests, God’s chosen people who have been set aside to proclaim the good news of salvation to the world.

Now being a kingdom of priests is no small thing. We have been set apart. We have been tasked with the proclamation of his message and we have been gifted for service to God in many and various ways. This is not the stuff of treadmills! This is a journey.

If you have ever been on a serious hike, you know that you would never pack along hostess cupcakes and soda for nourishment. When your body is seriously working, it needs complex carbohydrates, protein and water among other things, not just a few simple sugars. No one could endure a serious hike with cupcakes and soda. Likewise, we have to feed our faith for the journey we are on.

That is why Peter comes to us on Quasimodogeniti Sunday. Just when we are about to relax, to sit down under a nice shady tree and drift off for a few months, St. Peter comes to us and says NO YOU DON'T! You have work to do. You have not been made a kingdom of priests so that you could drift through life like a zombie. God has set you on a mission.

Easter's over. Now what? Now we are like newborn infants and we continue feeding our faith with pure spiritual milk. I don't often give specifics in the sermon but I want to do it today. I'm asking fifteen minutes from you a day. Just fifteen minutes. I challenge you to spend 15 minutes a day reading the Bible from today on. Read anywhere you want, follow any program you like but do it. Try it. I guarantee you that if you will just spend 15 minutes a day listening to God speak, your life will be changed. You are a kingdom of priests. Time to start eating like a priest. AMEN.