

Homily For Easter 2021

There is a viral three minute video on YouTube of a grandmother embracing her granddaughter.

The embrace is the first physical contact between the two in over a year.

Grandma just got her 2nd vaccination.

The reunion of the two is deeply moving. Tears are streaming down both their faces. Their bodies are shaking. They are interlocked in an embrace so tight, they seem inseparable.

Moments like these are being lived all over the planet. Hopefully there will be many more.

What's clear is that we are created to be connected to one another. Every fiber of our being cries out for connection.

And yet, far more than for periods of social distancing or the rigors of a lockdown, *death tears us apart.*

And not for just weeks and months- death separates us for a time that seems endless and cruel.

The bitter truth is that we all die. And no matter how tight the bonds, we painfully separate from one another.

I once got an Easter greeting card that read: *Easter: In a world that often feels unjust, God tips the scales in favor of hope.*"

Easter is our declaration of hope. Easter is the Christian declaration of hope.

Where Christ has gone, we will follow.

Yes, the grave pulls us apart, but not forever. Death's seemingly interminable season of "distancing" is not the final word.

What that grandmother and granddaughter experienced in that loving embrace of re-connection is *our future*.

Easter is the promise that life and love will be the fulfillment of our deepest longing.

But Easter is also a choice about now...

One can opt to live as if life is basically random, aimless. It's all just luck, whether good or bad. Everyone's got a bucket-list. Some get to fill it. Others don't. It's all haphazard until it all unravels in death. Then we expire into nothing- an eternal night.

Sadly, this may be quickly becoming the bleak vision of an entire generation!

Or, we might choose a road less traveled:

Trust that your life has a purpose and that we share a common destination.

Christ walks with us. The journey isn't aimless. There is meaning to the universe, to life. Even through our crosses and our pain there is a path. There is even a path through death itself.

Beyond the horizon of what we can see, there is an eternal Easter that gathers all the threads of love and affection that connect us in life.

So live in hope, love in hope, so that with God's grace we can breathe our last breaths in hope.

Because God has tipped the scales.

And hope will not disappoint.

Fr. Steven Labaire