

Easter Sunday 2009

Fr. Bob VerEecke, S.J.

So how was your day? I imagine you've been asked that question before. At the end of the day with a friend, a spouse, partner, family member, someone asks you: So how was your day? And what are some of your responses? "It started out pretty well but it went downhill. It went from bad to worse.

Nothing special. Just an ordinary day. Actually not too bad. It got better as the day went by." So how was your day? The question invites a narration of all that has passed. All that was surprising, challenging, heart-warming, or heart breaking. So how was your day?

I imagine someone asking Mary Magdalene or any of the women who had gone to the tomb on Sunday morning to anoint the body of Jesus. Their day began early in the morning. Their days had gone from bad with the news of the arrest of Jesus to the absolute worst, unthinkable, unimaginable, his death of the Cross. And as we hear, the women were the ones who were the witnesses. They were faithful to him through the heart-breaking loss of his love and his life. So this Sunday morning, very early at the break of day, their hearts were heavy with grief and loss. (You know that feeling. I know you know if you have lost a loved one, especially in an untimely death, though there is no death that is really timely.)

Their day began with the weight of sadness, loss, grief, disappointment, you can name all those heart-breaking realities.

But this was no ordinary day. This day was not a day of human creation. This was not a day where the power of evil held sway. This was not a day of death and decay, of disappointment and despair. No, this was not a day of human making. This was the day the Lord had made. This was the day when things went from bad to best. From the unimaginable, heart-breaking loss of a loved one to the unimaginable, heart-stopping discovery that God was God after all. That God had not abandoned his beloved. That God's faithfulness to Jesus was the final word. That God was working, God was breathing life, God was oh so GOOD and so GOOD and Soooooo Good. This God. Raising Jesus from the Dead. This was the day the Lord had made and there was reason, oh so much reason to rejoice.

And my brothers and sisters, this is the day the lord has made. This day. This is our day. God is making this day for us. This day is God's creation. God's victory over sin and death that is fulfilled in the faithful love of Jesus Christ. Yes, we will have days that go from bad to worse or from bad to better but just don't forget this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia!