

Homily — Easter Vigil 2018
Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

**All of tonight's readings mean to instill FAITH,
at least a little more deeply, in all of us.**

**They urge us to trust that out of darkness, surely light will come;
that out of life's floods, new beginnings will appear;
that out of slavery, for those who believe,
a new kind of freedom emerges;
that out of our many dyings, resurrection has been promised,
and that promise will surely be fulfilled.**

**The urging is to cling to that belief, yes, in the good times,
but especially in the hard, difficult, painful times.**

**We Catholic Christians, have what I am convinced
is a most powerful help in clinging tenaciously to that belief.
It is what we call LITURGY,
This liturgy, like all liturgy, is a way we have of making present.
making tangible, a way of bringing into the present
the assurance of all those promises
about darkness giving way to light,
our slaveries giving way to freedom,
our dyings giving way to new life.**

**This liturgy, like all liturgy, reminds us that all those promises are fulfilled
within the context of human community.
God gives us new life, freedom and true fulfillment
ALWAYS in the context of community, of human solidarity.
We are called to kinship with one another, and ultimately with God
who is always and everywhere present to us.**

**Every Sunday when we gather for liturgy,
we renew our baptismal promises in the Creed
That renewal is always meant to bring us back to the awareness
of who we are in relation to God and to one another —
to a profound sense of KINSHIP.**

**Tonight, in a short time, we will bless water and renew our baptism.
This night, above all others, is meant to re-instill in us
the holy calling that God gives all of us
We are called to be participants in transforming our world
into what Jesus calls the kingdom of God.
The Kingdom of God is not some pie-in-the-sky,**

things-will-get-better-by-and-by, waiting-for heaven FLUFF.

**After that renewal of our baptismal commitment, we will come to the table.
That's a promise that God is determined never to leave us alone
as we go about the day-to-day tasks and struggles
that real human kinship entails.**

So, Happy Easter, my dear friends.