

HOMILY - EASTER
April 5, 2026

How many Catholics does it take to change a light bulb? Change that light bulb? My grandfather donated that light bulb. Change is hard. Even if we know it is change for the better, it is hard and I think there are some reasons for that. Some change we choose, and some is forced upon us. If it is change that we choose, sometimes we have to admit that we were wrong. Sometimes it is more important for us to avoid admitting we were wrong than to be right. You know what I mean? And all change, regardless if it is chosen or forced upon us, involves a degree of uncertainty. We do not like uncertainty. We want to know how the story will end, and with change usually we do not know this. Many times we would rather hold on to what we have even if it is not working anymore, because we know it. We have to get more comfortable with uncertainty. The other thing that happens with change is that we are losing something. We are losing what is, and we must grieve that loss.

The disciples have had some dramatic change forced upon them that first holy week. Jesus entered Jerusalem with high praise “Hosanna to the son of David.” That quickly changed when the people turned on him, Judas betrayed him, the apostles abandoned him, and he was tortured and crucified. They thought they had found the Messiah and now that was all over. Talk about change. In the Gospel reading, we hear an account of Easter morning. Mary of Magdala arrived at the tomb early that morning and found the empty tomb. Maybe this was not over, another change. They locked themselves in the upper room in fear, that fear of uncertainty. They had to grieve the loss of Jesus, as they had known him. Jesus told them in the post resurrection appearances that he would be with them in a new way, spiritually, and he wanted them to continue to spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Were they going to do this and how was this going to end up? They had to make a choice. Were they going to stay locked in the upper room or were they going to

get more comfortable with uncertainty and move forward and change? Thankfully, they decided to change and I am glad they did because otherwise we may not be here today.

Something is happening right now in the Archdiocese of Detroit. 1,428 adults are entering the Catholic Church through the OCIA in this Archdiocese. That is the highest number in 2 decades. I was reading about some of our generation Z's. They just lived through a pandemic. They feel isolated, anxious and depressed. They look at our country, our world and all of the chaos, negativity and violence. But they have found someone they can follow. They have found Jesus Christ. About a year ago we welcomed our new Archbishop Edward Wiesenberger. He found an Archdiocese in need of restructuring. 70% of our parishes have less than 600 people in attendance at Mass on the weekend. We have many more buildings than we need or that we can maintain. There is a priest shortage. The priests we have now cannot maintain this model. It is projected that we will have a 40% reduction in priests over the next 10 years. Our Archbishop has a plan to restructure the Archdiocese so that we can have vibrant parishes, flourishing priests, and will be about to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ in the future. This 2 year plan began about 6 months ago. The priests have spent many days developing new models. Our key parish leaders have reviewed and commented on these models. Two listening sessions will be held in every parish so that everyone that wants to can have input into the plan. Our listening sessions at St. Edith will be in June. The new model will be announced in the spring of 2027 and the changes will be implemented July 1st of 2027. Something is happening in the Archdiocese of Detroit. Every parish will be affected in some way by this restructuring. Change is coming. Each of us needs to decide if we are going to welcome the change and be part of the change. We have to admit that what we have right now does not work anymore. We have to grieve the loss of what we have now. We have to embrace the uncertainty of the future. We do not know the end of the story yet. All of this will be led by the Holy Spirit. I am not going to stand in his way. I know that I can follow Jesus. How about you?