

HOMILY 6TH SUNDAY EASTER
May 10, 2026

We are observing the Easter Season and celebrating the Paschal Mystery, or the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, so I want to look at the Paschal Mystery and the implications it has for our lives today. You must look at it as a whole. Looking at the suffering and death without the Resurrection does not make sense. That is one reason why I did not like the Mel Gibson movie *The Passion of the Christ* that came out a number of years ago. It was two hours of suffering and death with couple of minutes of the resurrection. And of course the resurrection would not have been possible without the suffering and death. It was all necessary for our salvation. In fact, it is Jesus' body that died and was resurrected. Jesus' Spirit did not die, Jesus is eternal. Jesus frequently refers to his death as going home to the Father, and I think we should look at our own death the same way. Our bodies will die but we have an immortal soul that will live forever. There is a place with the Father for each of us.

We tend to look at death as evil because our experience of death is the death of people that we love. The death of people that we love is painful and we have to grieve their loss. We will experience our own death much differently. Our own death will be a transition into eternal life. We will be going home to the Father. I think the dying process can be a positive one. I think we can have a good death. Even though we do not like to think about it, we should all think about how we would like to spend the final days of our lives, because we may have some control over that, but we should not wait until we are there. We should pick someone to be our patient advocate to make decisions for us if we cannot make them for ourselves. Pick someone that loves you that will be able to carry out your wishes. It does not have to be a family member. It may be too hard for them. Have a conversation with them so they know what you want. My patient advocate knows that I do not want to spend the final days of my life in ICU on a

ventilator. At that point, I want to let nature take its course. I want to go home to the Father.

In the Gospel reading, we hear Jesus tell us “I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you.” That is the good news of the resurrection. When Jesus walked the earth, he was physically with a limited number of people and that must have been an incredible experience, but Jesus is in us spiritually always, loving us and guiding us. In this life, we are on a journey home to the Father. Jesus also tells us “If you love me you will keep my commandments.” Jesus came to earth to model for us how we are to live our lives. He is all about his New Commandment to love your neighbor as yourself or love and serve the Lord by loving and serving other people. I have come to realize that the only way to health, fulfillment and joy in this life is to live a Christian life modeled after Jesus. The Church can help us with that. Jesus established the Church and it exists for us. The Church is not perfect. There is a human face to the Church, but there is also 2,000 years of wisdom there.

When I look back at my life, I realize that all of the things that I have accomplished in my life came with hard work and suffering. Some of the things that seemed like suffering at the time turned out to be things that I am grateful for today because they led to something good. We have different seasons of our lives and sometimes what is good in the summer of our lives no longer makes sense in the winter. Sometimes we need to let something in our lives die so that we can move forward to new life. Sometimes things just get ripped away from us. I have talked to a number of people recently who lost jobs or did not get the job that they wanted and it seemed like the end of the world, but they ended up in a much better place. God sometimes works that way in our lives. Living a Christian life sometimes involves suffering. We hear in the second reading today “For it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”

Our lives kind of follow the pattern of the Paschal Mystery. We have some suffering, death and transition to new life. I think we need to look at all of it together.