Easter Sun day — April 12, 2020

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

Father Emil Kapaun is considered an outstanding hero of the Korean Conflict. He was among the prisoners, all American officers at a Communist prison camp in North Korea. He had won the heart of every P.O.W. and the rage of his captors by his Christ-like devotion to the physical and spiritual good of all his comrades, no matter what their religion, race or nationality. "All man-all priest" was how they described him. With threats and actual punishment, the Communists hindered his every effort to conduct services, but he always managed.

On Easter of 1951, the heroic chaplain planned a sunrise service. It was a cold, raw day with the wind howling from Manchuria over the Yalu River. About 85 prisoners gathered on the steps of a bombed- out church. Catholic, Protestant, Jew were there, plus some who had no religion at all, but were starting to find one. Father had no facilities for offering Mass, but he did recite the Rosary and the Stations of the Cross. He read some of the Mass prayers and a few passages from the Bible, especially the story of the Resurrection. Very few eyes were dry when it was over. Here was hope. Here was new courage. Here was new meaning to their almost unbearable life.

Why did Chaplain Kapaun and his companions risk inhuman punishment from their godless captors by holding an Easter service? Because they really believe that Jesus rose from the grave, because they hoped that Christ would deliver them from the living grave of that horrible camp, because they believed that death itself would be overcome by Him who promised: "He who lives and believes in me shall never die."

This was not mere wishful thinking on the part of those prisoners of war, nor on our part. We are certain, we are positive that Christ rose from the grave and that we will rise from the grave.

You have heard the statement: "The only certain things in life are death and taxes." That is not true. Yes, death is certain, but taxes are into. Some people avoid taxes. More important, just as death is certain, so it is certain that each one of us will rise from the grave, on the word of those who saw Him, talked with Him, even ate with Him after He rose. Yes, there are two certain facts - death and resurrection, resurrection to a never-ending life which Christ promises to all who follow Him.

That is the whole reason for our happiness today. That is the reason we celebrate with flowers, bright colors, and stirring music. That is what we mean when we wish Happy Easter to one another. Faith makes us certain.

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Though we are not able to meet together during this week, please keep these intentions in your personal prayers, as Father will continue to include them in his private masses.

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**April 14**	**N/A**
Meriam L. Escala † (birthday)		Mariano Family
Wed.	**April 15**	**N/A**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**April 16**	**N/A**
John Collins		Bob & Lydia
Fri.	**April 17**	**N/A**
Evangelina Montoya † (birthday)		Sylvia
Sat.	**April 18**	**N/A**
Clare & Dave Alvarado †		Trudi
Sun.	**April 19**	**N/A**
Napoleon Viduya †		Jenny
Port Costa		**N/A**
People of the Parish		

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