

EASTER HOMILY

1. Much of human history, creation was divided into 4 elements
 - a. Fire, water, earth and air
 - b. Not how scientists today organize building blocks of nature
 - c. Better description of how we experience world and life
 - d. These elements are an important part of Easter celebration
2. Fire represents light
 - a. Darkness is always fearful for us
 - b. We tend to fill the darkness around us with lights
 - c. Fire itself has a warm feeling, we enjoy campfires and candles
 - d. Fire can also be very destructive when it gets out of control such as wildfires, forest fires
 - e. Notice that Holy Saturday starts with blessing of fire, and all through Easter the candle is lit
3. Water of course is essential to life
 - a. We could not survive very long without access to water
 - b. We use water for cleansing
 - c. Lakes and streams are popular places to live by
 - d. Water can also be very destructive, we know the risk of floods or drowning
 - e. On Holy Saturday water that is blessed and any adult converts would have been baptized
 - f. This Easter water is often taken home to be sprinkled around the home especially during storms
 - g. The water becomes a physical prayer asking God's protection from the force of wind and water in a storm
4. Air is a more subtle but even more essential element of creation
 - a. We tend to notice it most, when air is stale or smoky and it is hard to breathe
 - b. We also sense how good it is when air feels fresh and clean
 - c. We know the destructive power of wind especially in storms and tornadoes
 - d. We notice air most in the liturgy through sense of smell such as scent of flowers or the burning incense
5. Earth gives us stability and comfort
 - a. It is much easier to stand on ground than on concrete
 - b. The earth is the safe place to be, there may be excitement in climbing heights but we always come back to the earth
 - c. But for all the comfort and stability that earth represents, it can be a source of danger
 - d. There can be earthquakes, sinkholes or dust storms
 - e. The earth can be a symbol of death, since in Western countries bodies are buried in the earth
 - f. But it is also a source of life since our food in the form of plants comes from the earth
 - g. During Easter our instinct is to decorate with plants such as Easter lilies to represent this new life
 - h. The bread and wine for the Eucharist are described as fruits of the earth
6. In the Resurrection of Jesus, we believe that life can be embraced
 - a. Jesus is the first to rise from the dead
 - b. He invites us to open ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit
 - c. Through the Spirit we become one with Jesus and enter into eternal life
 - d. Eternal life is not just life after death, although we will see it in its fullness after death
 - e. Eternal life is seeing the goodness and wonder of God that surrounds us
 - f. The four elements of the earth become symbols of life with God
 - g. Through the symbols of the sacraments God reaches out to touch us
 - h. He invites us to become one with Jesus' body through faith and baptism

- i. His Spirit continually nourishes us with Jesus' flesh and blood
- 7. God is calling us to freedom, to see that even in the destructive power of the elements of earth, He is rebuilding for us a new heaven and a new earth
 - a. In this new earth and new heaven, which we will see more clearly after death
 - b. We will be in a state of ecstasy and timelessness, we will be filled with wonder and joy
 - c. We will finally know the full meaning of being loved, being one with Love Himself
 - d. Today in our Easter celebration we are given a glimpse of that joy
 - e. The elements of life, fire, water, earth and air give us a faint image of the glory God will give us on our final day.