"The Resurrection teaches us not how to live, but how to live again, and again, and again."

When we are baptized into Christ, we don't have to wait till death to rise with him. Michael Casey, OCSO, in his book “Fully Human, Fully Divine” writes about how "little resurrections" occur daily and throughout life. He points out that Mark's Gospel is framed around the reality of the Resurrection. He writes,

> "...Mark's Gospel is saturated with the theme of Resurrection--partly because the two terms used in Greek are commonplace words that can be used without religious connotations. Often, they simply cover the ordinary meanings that we associate with the word ‘rise’. They can also be used in the context of healing narratives, where Jesus raises the sufferer or bids the sick persons to rise. We can see in these cures, if we want to exercise a little pious imagination, examples of mini-resurrections, whereby those who are delivered from sickness are also freed from the power of death which had expressed itself through their infirmity." (Page 304)

Mini resurrections also include those who have been brought low but delivered from spiritual sickness and freed from the power of death, which expressed itself through their spiritual infirmity caused by their own or someone else's sin.

If Mark's Gospel was framed around the reality of the Resurrection, should not our very lives be similarly framed? I like what Ronald Rolheiser, OMI writes in his booklet of reflections for Lent and Easter Week, *Daybreaks:*

> "The Resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, that we can regain lost innocence and move beyond bitterness...However, the challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave but also...to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can begin each day afresh. No matter what we've done, our future is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibilities. Resurrection is not just a question of one day, after death, rising from the dead, but it is also about daily rising from the many mini graves within which we so often find ourselves. Like Jesus, we, too, will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us...What the Resurrection teaches us is not how to live, but how to live again, and again, and again." (Page 63)

That is what it means to live with our lives framed around the Resurrection.

What does that look like in real life? We are often unaware of how a negative experience may contain a blessing in disguise to be revealed in time. It may take years to see anything positive in what was once a painful, debilitating event. Only after we have experienced growth ("mini-resurrection") because of it or despite it can we look back and assess it differently and more positively.

Sometimes, we need someone to announce the good news to us that we have been raised from the dead, meaning we have changed for the better after enduring troubled times. We may not always be conscious of that growth. In those cases, someone who knows us assumes the role of an angel and announces that we are different, wiser, and better because the transformation has been so complete that we have become a new man or woman. Sometimes, we are the ones who are called to announce the Good News on behalf of someone else.

When we have experienced such a "mini-resurrection," we often struggle to describe what has happened to us. We say, "I don't know how I survived, etc." or "Only by the grace of God, etc." We may thank

those close to us for their intervention on our behalf. We may be inclined to give ourselves all the credit when we have triumphed over adversity.

The Marists are fond of saying that God acts in ways "as if hidden and unknown in the world." In other words, God prefers to work through secondary causes, such as ordinary people and events by which he raises us when we have been brought low. Sadly, we fail to recognize grace's indispensable role in such mini-resurrections. We would be wise to look at life through the eyes of the evangelist Mark and see how much our life is saturated with mini resurrections. That should not surprise those baptized into Christ's death *and Resurrection*.

Fr. Rolheiser, OMI, says it best. "Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us...What the Resurrection teaches us is not how to live, but how to live again, and again, and again."

Happy Easter today and every day!