

## Deacon Tony's Easter homily.

A wealthy new parishioner, from St Thomas More, was being shown around the new Cathedral in Orange. On the Bishop's desk he noticed a gold telephone and was told that it was a direct line to God. When he asked if he could use it he was told that it would cost a half million dollars. He didn't call. He stopped into the parish office the next day to register and while there he noticed that Fr. John also had a golden telephone on his desk. Again he was told that it was a direct line to God and when he asked the deacon how much a call would cost he was told \$.25 for three minutes. The stunned parishioner said they wanted to charge him a half million dollars at the Cathedral. "Yes" said the deacon, "but over here it is just a local call."

Yes, there are many advantages to belong to St Thomas More Parish!

You know we get to know about Jesus through others who have experienced His love and forgiveness and can't help but share it with all who will hear with faith filled ears. Last night about a dozen people came into the church. It didn't happen by accident. They came in because of friends and relatives who by living their faith, were models to follow.

Peter called all who were listening with faith filled ears, in the first days of the church, and hundreds came to believe. The conversions came from personal witness.

We are all called to live "**RESURRECTED LIVES**".

The angels that appeared to the women who brought spices to care for Jesus' body, were asked a simple question:

**WHY DO YOU SEEK THE LIVING AMONG THE DEAD?**

That should be the burning question for us today. Why do we seek Jesus in places that we know He is not present? Why do we watch and participate in what is considered adult entertainment? Why don't we continue our Lenten resolutions, in order to grow closer to God all year long through good reading, good programming, and charitable acts of kindness and self sacrifice?

The good nuns taught us about **the nearer occasion of sin.**

This might seem like a less joyous homily, but it is meant to fix our sights on the glorious life that God is calling to live. And we can only live that life if there is less of us and more of God in our hearts.

Now we all know that we are in the springtime of the year.  
And the Spring at St Thomas More means:  
**“CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH”**.

Well I feel it is very important, at the Easter Masses, to announce our weekends because there are obviously many people here to day who only attend Mass on Easter and Christmas. You are the people that we pray will attend our “CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH” weekend.

Last year at this Easter Mass I announced our CRHP weekends. There were about three people, who shared that they came to the weekend because they heard the invitation and were not planning to return to Mass the next week. Three doesn't seem like many but if there were only one, it would have been worth all the planning and preparation.

Our men's weekend is April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our women's weekend is April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please get an information/registration card from one the team as you leave this morning. You can call the cell number on the card if you have questions or register by going to the URL on that card.

I hope you have a joyous Easter Sunday and more important, a joy filled Easter Monday.