

2018 Easter Homily
By Sr. Michele Bisbey

One of my favorite Easter memories is a line from a performance which a group of us presented in the late 1960s. We described Easter as “Christ going down into the tomb and pushing Life out of the Earth.” We decorated the halls and dining room with a great number of green “Alleluias.”

It struck me back then what a unique and rather strange way that was to describe the Resurrection of Jesus. I remember it to this day though probably because it says to me now, many years later, that our Provident God is with us in the “tombs” of our lives.

But in those tomb like experiences, the Provident One, like a midwife, is always urging us to push ourselves into life, even when we don’t want to, or when we think we can’t.

I have learned through the years, in the tomb-like experiences in my life, that when we follow the lure of our Provident God’s urging, to lean in, to push through the darkness, we are lead into the light and new life.

So, even as we can draw comfort from the truth that our Provident God is with us in our darkest moments, our faith in the Risen One reminds us that He walks with us daily in the light of His Resurrection. And the Resurrection is not a once in time historical event. It is an ongoing, evolving reality of our present.

For Easter Christians, Jesus is not on the cross. As Mary Magdalen, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple of today’s Gospel testify, Jesus is not in the tomb. Jesus has already “pushed life out of the Earth.” Jesus is among the living, always choosing life, and that is where we are to be too.

As we make God’s Providence more visible in our world, we are drawn with the sorrowing and the suffering to the heart of the Risen Jesus. We strive to make God’s Providence visible among the living, to push Life out of the Earth, We strive to make God’s Providence more visible in our world, to push Life out of the Earth by our care for those who are in need.

We strive to make God’s Providence more visible in our world, to push Life out of the Earth by our advocating for those who have no voice.

We strive to make God's Providence more visible in our world, to push Life out of the Earth by living lives of integrity in the midst of deceit.

We strive to make God's Providence more visible in our world, to push Life out of the Earth by being inclusive in our compassion and hospitality.

Women and men who make God's Providence visible are the evidence of Jesus' resurrection. Women and men who make God's Providence visible are the sign to the world that Jesus has risen from the dead and is alive in the world today.

Again and again, YOU are that evidence for me!

And because the Risen Jesus is alive in the world today, we can proclaim that Easter is one great, green Alleluia!