

## Lenten Reflection

Holy Saturday, March 26, 2016

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Holy Saturday, for me, has always been that in-between time—in the tomb—in the darkness and the unknowing. This time between Good Friday and Easter is the space between loss and hope, death and life, grief and joy.

I've often wondered about Jesus in this "transition" time and what it is he is trying to teach us. After all, he could have risen right away if he wanted to do so. So why stay in the tomb? Perhaps Jesus is trying to show us the importance of transitions, of being in the space of unknowing, of literally dwelling in the in-between spaces. It is often an uncomfortable landscape for our spiritual journey. We like answers. We like surety. We like moving on and moving ahead.

But life is not always obliging in those ways. Tomb-like experiences are part of our reality. Struggling with unknowns or darkness can be a part of everyday life. Some people experience the darkness of depression, where just dealing with the simple tasks of ordinary living leaves them feeling fearful and alone. Others live with uncertainty when they lose a loved one, lose a job, lose a home. It's that empty feeling, like at the end of the funeral service, when you are standing at the grave and all is quiet. The real meaning of mortality hits us. And yet, deep down we believe that life is not over, but merely changed. New life is just beginning. And so it is with our own spiritual journey. Emptiness can bring new insights, new stirrings that challenge us to stretch and grow.

Living with uncertainty requires courage and trust. It asks us to live with faith and deal with mystery. Perhaps we, as Providence People, are being called to spend our Holy Saturday standing in hope, knowing that nothing is impossible with God...not then and not now!