



Pastoral Letter from Bishop

Easter 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings in the name of the Risen Lord.

When the women approached the empty tomb that first Easter, they were met by an angel who said, “Do not be afraid”.

This message “Do not be afraid” seems to be a favourite with angels. When the angel appeared to Zechariah to announce the impending birth of John Baptist, the message began “Do not be afraid”. Likewise, when the Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, his first words were “Do not be afraid”. When the angel of the Lord announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds it was with the words “Do not be afraid”

This proclamation- “Do not be afraid”- from the angels was made in the context of announcing either birth or resurrection. It set the stage for the rest of the message which pointed to the triumph of life over death, justice over oppression, reconciliation over alienation and love over hatred.

We live today in a world in which fear is a major currency. Terrorism, war, economic crises, ecological disasters, global warming, overpopulation, unknown diseases, and possible pandemics all contribute to an atmosphere of fear and apprehension which can paralyze us, immobilizing us and preventing us from doing anything to change the situation.

Now as much as ever before we need to be reminded of the angelic message “Do not be afraid” in order that we may enter into the joy of Easter.

Rejoicing in the presence of Risen Christ may we, without fear, and, renewed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit; carry the Good News of God’s love in Christ Jesus to all living creatures.

Penny and I wish each and everyone a very blessed and joyous Easter.

+David: Keewatin