

Fr. David Hewko – April 20th, 2014 – Easter Mass – Phoenix, AZ

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, amen.

I wish all of you a very happy Easter in this beautiful summer weather of Phoenix, Arizona. I had midnight Mass in Post Falls, and a newly baptized convert, so pray for that soul, and then a noon Mass in Denver, Colorado, and then the evening Mass on Easter day here in Phoenix.

And today is the greatest of all the feasts of the whole Church year. This is the greatest crown, because it is the great victory of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The victory of, the only one in history to raise Himself from the dead by His own power. Because Christ told the Apostles and the Jews, He said: I have the power to lay down my life, and I have the power to raise it up again. And Christ, how often He was surrounded by the pack of wolves, the, of the Pharisees and the Jews who were contradicting Him. How often Our Lord, answering them quite simply said: ego sum qui sum, I Am Who Am, and manifested His divinity. He said He was God, and they picked up stones to kill Him because He said He was God. And when Our Lord was brought before Caiaphas, Our Lord being Truth itself, He cannot lie, He speaks the truth. Caiaphas asked Him with his full authority, and Christ respected his authority. He had before Him the pope of the Old Testament who had lost the faith, he didn't believe in Christ, but Christ respected his authority because he was the official high priest. And so, he asked Him solemnly: I ask you to tell us, are you Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Messiah? Are you the redeemer? Are you the one foretold? And Christ answers very simply and with great majesty: I Am. Tu dixisti, He says. You have said it. And then He further adds: and you shall see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with a great power and majesty. Referring to His glory at the Second Coming. And the high priest ripped his garments and said: he blasphemes.

So, the reason why Christ was crucified and put to death, because He told, He said the truth, He is God. He is the Messiah. There is no other. And He's the only one to rise from the dead. Where's Buddha? If he ever existed, Buddha is just bones and ashes. Where's Mahomet? The false prophet Mahomet? He is bones and ashes. Where is Martin Luther, the apostate priest who broke his vows and married a nun who broke her vows? And changed the words of the Bible, took out books from the Bible? Denied the sacrament of Confession and denied the primacy of Peter? Where is he? He is food for worms, and ashes. Visit his tomb. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI, to his shame, held up Martin Luther as an example for Christians to follow. His own words. And then, where's Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon psychosis? It's not even a religion because a religion has to have sacrifice. And Joseph Smith is buried, he's bones and ashes.

And where's Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal King? He was dead on the cross, held in the arms of His mother, and He was buried, quickly. He was wrapped in a shroud, and the third day He rose from the dead. He rose from the dead. And the Jews, as you know, the Jews were very, the high priest, they knew His prophecy that He would rise on the third day, so they said to the Roman soldiers: we're going to pay you money, you guard the tomb just in case the Apostles come and steal the body and seduce everybody saying that He rose from the dead. So, the Jews paid for the first eyewitnesses of the Resurrection. And there they were, the Romans, these were the best soldiers of the whole empire. They were the Navy SEALs of the world, and as you know, the Roman soldiers, if they slept on duty, on a night watch, they would be killed if they were negligent. So, they were watching the tomb, and they were there for the Resurrection. A tremendous earthquake and the explosive light that issued from the tomb, rolled the rock, broke the seals that were on the rock, and the three women on their way very early in the morning, when they saw, they felt the earthquake and saw the bright light, and saw the soldiers, and they say in the Gospels, they were, *velut mortui*, they were like as if dead they were so scared, so terrified. Just put yourself in a cemetery at night and imagine one of the tombs coming alive. It would scare anybody. And this happened. So, they ran to the Jews and said: this happened, we can't explain it, He must be God. Because we were there, and the tomb is empty. So, the Jews paid extra money to

these Romans, to these Roman soldiers to say, don't say that you saw the earthquake and the, what you saw, say that, just, we pay you more money, just don't say anything about it.

So, the glorious Resurrection, and Our Lord appeared five times on the first Easter Sunday, in five far different places. Now, the enemies of Christ are always, always trying to discredit the Resurrection, because the Resurrection is the, the triumph over the paganism of this world, it's the triumph over the false Judeo-Masonry, it's the triumph over the Freemasonry, it's the triumph over all the darkness, because Christ is the only Light, He is the only true God. No one else has risen from the dead. It's why we adore Him as God. And today, with all the power of the media, with all the power of the radio, the internet, you would think that today is just a normal Tuesday. Here it is, Easter Sunday, the most important feast, and we have become so pagan that there's nothing. In the airports, you would never know it's Easter. You would never know we're a so-called Christian nation, which is a laughing matter because it's not. It's not. We have become worse than pagan when the most important feast is gone. But at least you, friends of Our Lord, you few soldiers left, adore Him and rejoice with the Mother of God on this day, because Christ would've appeared first to His mother. The poor Virgin Mary, crushed at the Passion, and she continued to live the Passion, she continued to hear the pounding of the nails, to hear the insults and mockery and blasphemies at the foot of the cross. And the terrible, frightening scourging at the pillar, the whips continued to echo through her mind. Seeing her innocent Lamb butchered, and then dead in her arms. She laid His body in the tomb, with Saint John and the other Marys, and they didn't have much water, they didn't have anything, so she washed His body down with her own tears. And as Christ, His sufferings stopped with His death, but the Virgin Mary continued to suffer. That's why Saturday is her day. Holy Saturday, and in Catholic countries, they will have huge processions in honor of the Virgin Mary of Sorrows, carrying her statues through the streets, on her day, the day of her sorrows.

So, Easter morning, Our Lord, tradition holds, first appeared to her, to raise His crushed lily, to raise His, His dove, mourning, so that she could sing a new song of the glory of her Son. The Virgin Mary, however, she never lost the faith. She never doubted, but the Apostles lost the faith. That the Apostles lost the faith helps us, especially Saint Thomas, because these, these attackers against the Resurrection, these atheists who always try to attack the Resurrection. One of their arguments is that the Apostles had a collective hallucination, and that they just dreamt up this Resurrection which really never happened. And that is really a blasphemy.

But, look at the facts. Were the Apostles, were they material for hallucination? These were hard working fishermen, down to earth, some of them were thick, thick headed. Our Lord had to many times remind them of many things. Saint Peter putting his foot in his mouth frequently. And these men were down to earth, they were simple, down to earth men. They weren't food for hallucination, that's for sure. And to prove it, on the day of the Resurrection, were they quick to believe it? Absolutely not. They were so slow to believe, that when the women reported it to him, that they saw the angels, that they saw Our Lord, they didn't believe it, and Saint Peter and John ran to the tomb to get proof. And there were other, two disciples who were already on the way home. They didn't believe in the Resurrection. They already heard the reports of the women, but they didn't: women, they didn't get enough sleep. So, the two disciples are walking back, seven-mile to Emmaus, and they lost the faith. So, these Apostles, they were not food for hallucination. Anything but. And then finally Our Lord had to appear to them later today, on the first Easter Sunday. They were all, they were dead scared, these Apostles, because they thought we're next to be crucified. They were scared.

And so, when Our Lord passed through the walls, and walked in with His physical body, and the same majestic face of Christ but having His wounds, and He told them: touch My hands, put your fingers in My wounds, I'm not a ghost. Here, let Me eat, give Me some bread, give Me some fish. And when the Apostles finally realized the truth, that this was the living Jesus Christ, the King before them, how they

wept. How they wept tears of repentance. And I'm sure Saint Peter was the first, who so bitterly betrayed Him.

And so, Thomas was not there on the first Easter Sunday, so Saint Thomas is another proof that the Apostles were not food for collective hallucination, because he didn't believe it, even after all the other Apostles told him: look, Thomas we saw Him, we felt His hands, we heard His voice, it's the same Christ, we're not on drugs. No, I won't believe it until I see it. The typical rationalist. But Thomas' doubting cures our doubts, says Saint Gregory. And Saint Thomas, a week later, next Sunday, Low Sunday, Christ appears and calls Thomas. Thomas recovers the faith, Saint Thomas.

Plus, if these Apostles were promoting a lie of the Resurrection, if it was really a lie, what advantage did they gain by preaching this? Which only brought on them being in prison, being whipped, being outcasts, being persecuted continually. They had no advantage to preach the Resurrection, but they preached it because it was the truth. And it only brought on them persecution. And not only that, it finally brought on them their own brutal deaths, because they did preach the Resurrection. That's the Catholic faith, and all of them suffered brutal deaths, cruel deaths, except Saint John, but he even was boiled, at the Latin Gate, he was boiled in boiling oil, but he came out miraculously younger and stronger. But he was persecuted.

So, Saint Paul also, Saint Paul, how did he turn from a zealous Jew persecuting the Catholic Church, to a zealous Catholic, converting the Jews? What turned him around? And it was seeing Our Lord Jesus Christ physically, speaking to him that knocked him off his horse, after the Resurrection, after the Ascension, because Saint Paul never saw Our Lord in the physical, in His physical earthly life.

And then of course, we Catholics now, we have a whole history of, the Catholic history of so many saints, blessed, venerables, of Our Lord appearing to so many souls, physically appearing, like to Saint Margaret Mary of Alacoque, like Our Lord appearing to Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, and I saw that staircase. You can see that staircase in Avila, in her convent. And on the staircase, they have the little statue of the Baby, of the Child Jesus standing on the stairs. And this was in the 1500s. Saint Teresa was walking up the steps, and she saw this Boy in the convent, and the Boy asked her: who are you? She said: I'm Teresa of Jesus, sister Teresa of Jesus, but who are you? In other words: what are you doing here? This is a cloister, you're not allowed in here, go back home. And the Boy says: I am Jesus of Teresa. And vanished. And He also appeared to her scourged at the pillar. And so many mystics, like Venerable Anne Catherine Emmerich, and so many saints, and Padre Pio. They really saw Our Lord. They really saw Him. How many times Christ appeared, plus all the Eucharistic miracles, and at Fatima, the Child Jesus appeared in the arms of Saint Joseph in one of the apparitions.

So, Christ is alive and, we would say in our plain English, He is alive and kicking. He is alive and glorious, victorious, eternal Kyrios, the eternal Victor. And we know that the Virgin Mary is also, she's in heaven with Him, with her resurrected body, her glorified body. And the Church also teaches, Saint Francis de Sales held this very strongly. It's not yet defined, someday the Church probably will define it, is the assumption of Saint Joseph, whose body is also in heaven. So, the Holy Family is there, physically with their bodies.

So, the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord is powerful, and furthermore, we have the irrefutable proofs of the holy Shroud of Turin, venerated for centuries, the cloth that wrapped the body of Jesus. At NASA, when they did a study of this, they got the cold chills when they put it through their scanner, and the image came out as if there was a body lying underneath that cloth, because the image is a 3D image, which means there was a powerful light that burnt into the cloth the image, and His body passed through the cloth. And so, when the Apostles walked in, like Saint John and Peter, and they saw the Shroud, the Shroud wasn't turned over like when someone gets out of bed, they turn the sheets out and they get out. Remember they wrapped His body as the Jews do, like a mummy, and all the wrappings were still there, it was only deflated, because Christ's body passed through it.

And then many, many studies show the, for example, the coins in the eyes. The Jews, they put coins in the eyes, and the coins actually had to be burned into the cloth with enough brilliance and enough heat to leave an image. And under close microscope, they can pick up the actual image on the coins, which show they were pounded, they didn't mint them in those days, the slaves pounded the coins, they were pounded under Pontius Pilate's time. They were, they had the image of the staff of Pontius Pilate, plus even the date. Even the date. And then the pollen, the pollen shows its flowers of pollen which only exist in Jerusalem, in that area, which only bloom in April and May.

So, here we are, how can we doubt the Resurrection when we have mountains of evidence? One has to be a real fool to reject this truth. But this is the beauty of the Catholic faith, it's the powerful Resurrection. And Our Lord, why, why did He suffer? Why did He rise from the dead? Saint Thomas will give us four simple reasons. First, to give us hope, and for us to strive for heaven, and to remind us that, that unless Christ Himself suffered and shared our nature, we wouldn't really believe all this. But He really did take our nature on, and He really did suffer. And there's no suffering that any of us could ever go through, whether it be physical, emotional, intellectual, in any way, there's no suffering that any of us go through that Christ Himself did not suffer, and, and in a much higher degree. So, Our Lord suffered and rose to encourage us in this fight on earth to get to heaven. Secondly, says Saint Thomas: He, the Creator of heaven and earth took on our flesh and suffered for us to show us that the sufferings of this time are nothing to come, nothing compared to the glory to come. If the Creator, the King of heaven and earth can leave His majesty, His happiness of heaven and come down on earth, which was the only way to rescue us from the chains of hell and sin, it shows us the greatness of heaven. And that's why Saint Paul says: eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor can a man possibly imagine what God has prepared for those who love Him. And heaven is so beautiful, so great that, that God Himself has come down, and gone through the Passion to show you the price of your soul, to rescue your soul.

The third reason Saint Thomas gives is: Our Lord gives us a real hope, a real hope in the eternal happiness through the holy sacraments. Christ instituted seven sacraments. The sacraments didn't develop later with the Christian community. That's what the modernists say, and those were condemned by Saint Pius X. No, Christ Himself established seven sacraments, and the sacraments give you the grace of Christ, and the Holy Eucharist is Christ Himself. And the sacraments heal your soul, heal the wounds of sin, they strengthen you in this combat. And we eat the very, and drink the very refreshing Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ to strengthen us in this battle to get to heaven. So, the fourth reason Saint Thomas gives is: that you're going to rise from the dead. On the Last Day, all of us will rise from the dead. And the older people are going to all appear at the age of thirty. The perfect age. And you'll be strong, you'll be healthy, you'll be beautiful, any defects will be gone, and you will have eternal health and strength, and true freedom, freedom from sin. And you'll have the qualities of a resurrected body, which means the life of grace will shine through you, the union with God by grace, and you'll have always the Beatific Vision by the intellect, with your human eyes you'll see all the other saints, and all their, the beautiful eyes of Saint Cecilia and Saint Lucy, Saint Teresa. You'll shake hands and embrace Saint Pius X himself, and Saint Benedict, and Saints Peter and Paul. You'll be able to talk to all the Old Testament saints, Saint Daniel – what was it like in the lion's den? Or Jonas – what was it like living three days in the belly of a whale? Which also prefigured the Resurrection, Christ in the belly of the earth, and rising three days, as Jonah was in the belly of the whale, and being brought up, being spit out on the beach after three days.

So, Christ was the first to rise, and just as His body flew wherever He wanted, so the resurrected body, you'll be able to fly where you want. You won't need airplanes and helicopters, you won't need a car, because all you will need to do is just desire to go, go up to Denver, and you just fly, because the body will be subject to the soul. And this is not dreamy stuff, because Christ's real resurrected body flew. When He ascended into heaven, He ascended by His own power, without a helicopter, without a

balloon, by His own strength. And that's called the gift of agility. And Saint Thomas Aquinas says you'll be able to do back flips off of a five-hundred-foot cliff, and a perfect dive, no problem. Or if you want to stop in midair, you'll be able to stop in midair. And you'll also never suffer, you'll never get sick, never get cold, never get old. And then you'll also be able to pass through matter, because Christ passed through the walls in the Upper Room, so the resurrected body will be able to pass through the walls. So, you won't need tunnels through the mountains.

And the new earth, Saint Thomas Aquinas says the earth will be purged by fire. The new earth will be more glorious, more beautiful, and it will show the glory of God. And it's hard for us to imagine, but just think this earth which now is so beautiful, was already punished with the Flood. It's, this is really a state of punishment, but all creation groans for the glory of God, for the Redemption to be accomplished. So, when the new earth is made, and purged by fire, what is there is going to be far more incredible, and it will reflect the beauty and the glory of the Blessed Trinity. But in hell, so much for the devil's deceptions and the Masonic lies about freedom and independence. In hell, you can't move. In hell, they can't move, they're fixed in one position for the rest of eternity. Boiling hot, with people biting at them, screaming at each other, and acting like animals. And there's no compassion, and there's no love in hell. It's the absence of God.

So, these four reasons Saint Thomas gives, that we realize that we're only travelers here on earth, we're only pilgrims. And the holy Resurrection shows us this. So, let us rejoice with the Blessed Virgin Mary on this beautiful feast. And it's not just today, as the world would have it. Saint Augustine says the Church is not boring. You got forty days of Lent, and now you got fifty days of feasting, fifty days of living in innocence and purity, and really striving to be more united to Christ by the life of grace. And the holy Resurrection is so powerful, so beautiful. It's the Lion of the Tribe of Judah Who conquers, Christ the King Who conquers. And remember, as Saint Jerome says: remember how the Jews gathered at the foot of the cross, the Pharisees. And they said: come down from the cross. And they mocked Him and ridiculed Him. Come down from the cross. If you do, we'll believe you. And they laughed and laughed, but Christ was patient, Christ was just suffering patiently. And Saint Jerome says: what is more powerful? To preserve His life by coming down from the cross, would that have convinced them? He says: no. But Christ was patient. He waited to die and be buried, and it's far more powerful to conquer death. And Christ rose from the dead. He rose from the dead.

So, in this holy Mass, you're going to receive the same glorified Body in Holy Communion. The same Body that the Virgin Mary held at the foot of the cross, touched at the Resurrection, the same body that the Apostles touched at the Resurrection. You're going to receive Our Lord's Body, and drink His Precious Blood, the refreshment, the sweet Wine, to strengthen your soul, to heal your soul, so that we grow really in the love of God, and it's also to refresh you to fight, to fight for the Faith. Because you're all Confirmed. And why are we Confirmed? To belong to the Church Ramada Inn? No, we belong to the Church Militant.

And if there's any time in the Catholic history where the Catholics are put to the test, to fight, and to be militant for the Catholic truth, it's now. In this age of cowardice, in this age of mush, in this age of complete spinelessness, at least you friends, you children of the light stand up and defend the faith. In, when, to get very practical, there can never be a compromise, ever, with any Catholic, let alone the SSPX or a bishop, you can never be a compromise with Vatican II. We can never say Vatican II can be interpretable in the light of Tradition. It's just not possible. It's not possible. And the new Mass, legitimate? Not possible. And the new Code of Canon Law, which contains open heresies, such as inverting the end of marriage is unacceptable. In the new Profession of Faith that Archbishop Lefebvre himself condemned, unacceptable.

So, we are in this new stage of this new phase of the war right now, and all the Traditional Catholics, all of us, us priests, every one of us is being put to the test. We are all put to the test. Do you love Me, Our Lord is asking, or do you want to go with the world? With the conciliar Church? With ease? With the

crowd? To be normalized, and regularized, and cool, and regularized, and regular, the regular guy. Branded, to not stick out like a sore thumb. But Catholics sometimes have to stick out like a sore thumb. And the early Catholics did, they stood before the whole coliseum, professing the Catholic faith, fed to the lions, crucified, openly. Open torture, tortured openly. And that's our Catholic faith, and it cannot be compromised.

So, let's pray to the Mother of God to give us a strong faith. That's the beauty of the Resurrection, the virtue of Faith, and hope for heaven, and a great love of God, which I will ask for all of you in this Holy Sacrifice.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

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The Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, amen.