

## Easter

(Sun Mar 27: 9 a.m. St. Martha, 11 a.m. St. Louis)

When we took family vacations my father always rented a place which was on a lake. One day during the vacation he would take out the boat, usually just a row boat, and be gone for four or five hours. Since the boat always had fishing gear in it we presumed dad was out there fishing all that time. Then he'd come back with nothing – no fish. When we got older we worked up the nerve to ask him why he went out there every year, only to catch nothing. And with a big smile he gave us the answer. “Catching fish is not the point.” “Well, if catching fish is not the point then why do you go out there?” His answer? “Simply to be on the water.”

Some people vacation near lakes or oceans because water can be peaceful and calming. Time spent alone watching water can prove to be refreshing. Riding on water can be a lot of fun. Remember riding the Crystal Beach Boat, the Americana or Canadiana? There were the Saturday night “Dance Cruises.”

But, like everything in life, water has its down side; storms, tornados, hurricanes, floods, property damage, drowning. So water for us is a symbol of both life and death. You can't live without it and too much can cause death.

While the season of Easter is about the resurrection of Jesus from the dead it is just as much about new life in the church, life which is born from water and the Holy Spirit, here at this baptismal font; old life of existence without Christ to new life with Christ, a life brought about through the pouring of water. The Catholic Church received about one million new members worldwide last night at the Easter Vigil. Today the church rejoices like a new mother who has just given birth.

For us who have already been through the waters of baptism there is another kind of water for us at this time of year, the water produced by tears, tears of repentance for our sins. That's what part of Lent is all about, repenting our sins; feeling bad about them

and taking steps to change our way of acting in certain instances. Those tears do for us what the waters of baptism do for converts to the faith. Both kinds of water cleanse us. Both kinds of water bring us new and renewed life. Today we will renew our baptismal promises and seek that renewed life we received in baptism.

Today is a day to remember that fishing is not the point. Being on the water is. Today our tears offer us something wonderful – new life. May the Lord give us the strength to risk the water of our tears for something wonderful.