

origins

CNS documentary service

Easter Vigil Homily

Pope Francis

"In these dark months of the pandemic," the risen Lord "invites us to begin anew and never lose hope," Pope Francis said April 3 during a pared-down celebration of the Easter Vigil. Reminding a small congregation in St. Peter's Basilica of the angel's call to the women who discovered the empty tomb to "go to Galilee" to see Jesus, the pope said that call "means realizing that faith, if it is to be alive, must get back on the road." He urged Christians to reject a view of faith as "made up of habits, things from the past, lovely childhood memories, but no longer a faith that moves me, or challenges me." Instead, he said, Jesus "walks beside you each day, in every situation you are experiencing, in every trial you have to endure, in your deepest hopes and dreams." Pope Francis also said Galilee represented a "diverse and disparate region ... farthest

"If on this night you are experiencing an hour of darkness, ... open your heart with amazement to the message of Easter."

from the ritual purity of Jerusalem." In such places even today "we can find the risen one in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the enthusiasm of those who dream and the resignation of those who are discouraged, in the smiles of those who rejoice and the tears of those who suffer, and above all in the poor and those on the fringes," he said. The pope spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his homily follows, copyright © 2021 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

the women thought they would find a body to anoint; instead they found an empty tomb. They went to mourn the dead; instead they heard a proclamation of life. For this reason, the Gospel tells us, the women "were seized with trembling and amazement" (Mk 16:8); they were filled with trembling, fear and amazement. Amazement.

A fear mingled with joy that took their hearts by surprise when they saw the great stone before the tomb rolled away and inside a young man in a white robe. Wonder at hearing the words: "Do not be afraid! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen" (v. 6).

And a message: "He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him" (v. 7). May we too accept this message, *the message of Easter*. Let us go to Galilee, where the risen Lord has gone ahead of us. Yet what does it mean "to go to Galilee"?

To go to Galilee means, first, *to begin anew*. For the disciples it meant going back

continued on page 758



contents

- 757 Easter Vigil Homily
by Pope Francis
- 759 Pastoral Orientations on
Climate Displaced People
*by the Migrants and
Refugees Section and
the Integral Ecology
Sector of the Dicastery
for Promoting Integral
Human Development*
- 772 Datebook
- 772 On File

April 15, 2021
Volume 50
Number 46