

Bishop Jaime Soto – Homily for Easter Vigil,
April 3, 2010

During the preparation of the gifts on the altar, the minister pours wine into the chalice and then adds a few drops of water with the simple, inaudible prayer: “Through the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.”

En cada misa, el ministro mezcla agua con el vino como signo de la comunión de humanidad y divinidad encontrada en la persona de Jesús. Esta comunión encarnada se celebra con júbilo esta noche por la resurrección de Jesús de entre los muertos. Saliendo de la tumba, Cristo no dejó atrás su humanidad. El gozo de esta noche está motivado por la re-creación de una nueva humanidad redimida por Cristo, el hijo del Padre e hijo de María.

This earnest, humble, human hope is celebrated on this holy night as our frail humanity comes to share in the divinity of Christ, raised from the dead. The Lord Jesus gave himself as an offering on the cross. Because of his filial obedience to the Father’s desire, the Heavenly Father, pleased with His perfect sacrifice, raised him from the death. In coming up from the tomb where he had laid for three days, the Lord Jesus did not leave behind his humanity like the discarded burial linen. He emerged both human and divine. Jesus rose from the dead victorious as the obedient Son of the Father and the faithful Son of the Mary.

The gospel account this evening hints at this wonder when the women went quietly to the tomb of Jesus “at daybreak on the first day of the week.” These simple words take us back to the first reading this evening from Genesis. The women approach the time and place where the Father’s loving hand reached out, took the hand of his beloved son, and lifted him up as the first-born of the New Creation. The Father breathed His Spirit of enduring affection so that Jesus rose, bringing with him into the daybreak of that first day a humanity redeemed, revived by the divine spirit.

El evangelio nos relata como las mujeres llegaron a la tumba en el amanecer del primer día de la semana. Este detalle ya nos indica que iban a encontrar el acontecimiento de una nueva creación. Venimos aquí con la confianza que este amanecer de una nueva génesis llegará a nuestros hermanos y hermanas por medio de los ritos de iniciación. Son ritos de una nueva creación. Son los ritos de un nuevo amanecer humano.

The light from that first day of our redemption is what brings us here this night. This creation story now weaves us into its wonderful tale. The Lord Jesus is the new Adam who works to fill the earth with His Spirit, making it fruitful with the gifts of the Kingdom. He continues to multiply the sons and daughters of this New Creation, the New Covenant sealed with the blood and water that flowed from His pierced side. His adopted brothers and sisters will enjoy the Father's pleasure. The Father will breathe the same Spirit that raised Jesus so that their lives might be like daybreak, bringing the hope of a new day to the world.

Los que van a hacer bautizados, ungidos, y comulgados esta noche no se acercan estos sacramentos solos. En la pila bautismal Jesús les acompañará. Recibirán la unción del mismo Espíritu de Jesús. Beberán del mismo cáliz de Jesús, la copa de una nueva alianza con Cristo.

In a short while, we will bless the baptismal fount with the divine light of Christ. Into this water will be immerse each one of our brothers and sisters as were we on the day of our baptism. They will come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity. We will all drink from the one cup where the mystery of Christ's humanity and divinity pours out for us a new covenant. Through this covenant, both human and divine, we are brought into the divine communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

As we reflect on the daybreak of this new humanity let us see that Jesus did not rise alone. The relationships that were thought lost by his death on the cross are also redeemed. The relationship mourned by the women as they gaze sadly into the tomb is revived by the news, "He is not here ... he has been raised." More than revived, their

relationship to the Lord is charged with new life. Their gladness is the joy of Jesus filled with His Father's delight. Though each of the disciples were slow to believe what seemed like nonsense. They would each come to their senses and understand that their good friend, who had loved them to the end, still lived for them and was eager to breathe the spirit of the new creation upon them.

In this way, the news of the resurrection is more than information. It is the realization that our personal relationship with the Lord Jesus brings the light of a new day to each of us. We are part of His new creation. He is the first-born of many brothers and sisters. Our friendship with Jesus also gives us that same spirit with which we can boldly call God, our Father. With Jesus we are brought into this divine communion between the Father and the Son. With the child-like spirit of Jesus we can humbly obey the Father knowing that He delights in us as His own sons and daughters. Trusting that His pierced hand will tenderly hold our own, we can remain tranquil even in the midst of uncertainty and doubt. The breath of His Spirit gives all our words and actions the power of grace. Our still frail humanity can radiate the goodness of the risen Christ because he shares in our humanity and has given us a share in his divinity.

Los sacramentos de iniciación dan inicio a una nueva vida. Esta nueva vida consiste en una amistad con Jesús. La vida cristiana es un caminar con Cristo. Los pasos de este caminar nos lleva a la pila bautismal, a la unción crismal, y a la mesa eucarística. También habrá otro paso importante esta noche. Es el envío, el caminar misionero. Jesús fue enviado para crear una nueva humanidad reconciliada con su Creador. Cristo resucitado nos ha renovado y nos ha recreado a través de bautismo. Ahora nos envía con la misma misión de renovar y recrear todo el mundo de acuerdo de su imagen.

The Resurrection of the Lord is not about forfeiting a failed, frail humanity. In a world and a Church wracked with violence, bleak with disappointment, and soured by sin, the risen Christ shines with the possibility of a humanity redeemed by the daybreak of a creation made anew through the one who “became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.” (Heb. 5.9)

Our friends this evening will immerse themselves in the divinity of obedient Son of the Father who humbly immersed himself into our humanity. Let us journey with them in this Easter passage from death to life. Let us drink with them from the one cup of our salvation. It is the cup of Christ, human and divine. This cup of the new covenant fills us with gladness and joy. From this cup brims the light of new day and a new humanity. Let us together be that cup of gladness pouring out His Spirit to renew the face of the earth.