



## Don't be sad, we are forever an Easter people

There is an old Irish saying, "when you were born, death came out of the womb with you, but there was so much excitement over your arrival that nobody noticed it." Certainly there is much wisdom in this pithy saying because at the moment of our birth each of us has walked with death as a constant companion. Most of us, at one time in our lives, have paused and wondered what our own death would be like. Some people even make predictions of an untimely death. Others pray for a pain-free and quick death. Still others hope death never comes.

As Catholic Christians, I would like to add an extra line to our Irish saying, "since birth, fortunately we have also had the company of a second companion and fellow traveler: Resurrection." The Paschal Mystery and Easter Sunday have changed the way we live our lives forever. The brilliance of the resurrection reminds each of us that we are forever "Easter People" and "Alleluia" is our song. It might seem funny for us to reflect on Easter when we are in throngs of

Thanksgiving Day preparations. But, it is a perfect time for us to rediscover the connection.

In November, as a church, we remember and give thanks for the lives of All Saints and All Souls. We celebrate their lives, their memories, and their births.

confidence that Jesus will keep his promise that one day we will be with him forever.

In this Sunday's Gospel, some Sadducees, who deny there is a resurrection, come forward and pose a problem to Jesus about a childless woman

of us to do some more serious reflection on how we walk through life. Are we truly people of hope who believe that resurrection is a constant companion with us? Or do we walk around aimlessly, circling around and worrying about earthly things that will not bring us new life?

I think there is no coincidence that in their very name the Sadducees the first three letters say it all: Sad. Why? Have you ever really met a sad person? Not just someone disappointed that things did not go their way, but truly sad all the time. It is heart wrenching to see them and even more difficult to try and understand their view of life. As Jesus reminded his disciples, "it cannot be that way with you."

And it cannot be that way with us. There is so much joy in the fact we celebrate life and even more joy that we, one day, will celebrate resurrection. Now that makes life worth living.

*Father Protack is pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Berlin, Md.*

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### Readings for Nov. 11, the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Maccabees 7:1-2; 9-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:16, 3-5; Luke 20:27-38

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Not so much the day they were born into the world, but the day they were born into new life. We give thanks for their new life in the communion of saints and in the presence of the risen Lord. In the Mass of Christian Burial, we pray the words of the Preface, "Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended."

Yes, it is true. Life is changed and very different for each one of us who are believers because we truly live as people of hope. We profess boldly our belief in the hope of resurrection. We walk each day with the

married seven times to a band of brothers. Whose wife would she be when they all died? Easy answer for Jesus: resurrection. And with resurrection all earthly bonds are forgone and new life exists. The Sadducees only see death as a companion and the final end and so they present the silly conundrum to Jesus. All married couples profess their vows "until death do us part." Belief in the resurrection directly affects our lives.

Now all this talk about death and resurrection should not stop here. Rather it should cause each

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