

3rd Sunday of Easter Time - Year C

I've been on retreat last week – and the retreat was good but 3 things really hit me.

- I found the gravesite of Fr. Gabriel Roerig, OSB – the first priest on Andros (1950)
 - a. Built St. Mary's in Behring Point St. Joseph in Man O War Sound
 - b. Established St. John in Fresh Creek St. Gabriel in Calabash Bay
 - c. St. Rita's in Stanyard Creek St. Saviour in Mastic Point
 - d. He was the founding father of Catholicism in family islands

Source of inspiration for me

THEN

- During the retreat Msgr Culmer in hospital -- Fr. Alaine just released (# priests stretched)
- It was explained that we owe \$11,000 for bills not paid between Sisters & our arrival
 - a. My Easter joy and inspiration was under attack

In ACTS the same thing happened to the Easter joy of the Apostles

They've seen the risen Christ

Overwhelmed with that Easter joy they can't help but proclaim it

Immediately Easter joy meets persecution, trial, arrest and beating

BROUGHT BEFORE SANHEDREN

What did they do in the face of that persecution?

What did they do when things got difficult?

'Thank God we were deemed worthy to be beaten!' **WHAT? That is Easter Joy?**

Have you ever been ridiculed, made fun of, or challenged for being Catholic?

(and then thanked God for it?)

Today our Easter joy is put to the test too

Vocations are down – Aging clergy – we could despair

Our kids get ridiculed getting on the bus "Church boy"

But our kids keep climbing into the bus AND other mothers ask us to take theirs too.

EASTER JOY

While St. Gabriel's is closed the Archbishop has given permission to work to re-open it

(Time, money, hard work)

As more Catholics return to Mastic Point the Archbishop has given permission to explore

(Time, money, hard work)

Do we have Easter joy – You Bet!

Today, filled with Easter Joy, Peter jumps out of the boat and swims to Jesus

Just as he denied Christ 3x

Now he proclaims his love 3x

AND IS FORGIVEN

Easter joy always triumphs over worldly persecution

BAPTISM