

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

We have restored St. Gabriel's & now CCD and AA meetings are bearing fruit

AND Now St. Mary's in Behring Point is almost ready for us to use

EASTER JOY

Construction is in full swing in Mastic Point with the foundation laid and poured.

(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

Salvation comes from forgiveness of sin –
true source of Easter Joy

As Catholics we have Easter Joy

As Catholics we will be ridiculed, challenged and criticized

BUT As Catholics we know our Easter joy is the same Easter joy of the Apostles 2000 years ago

Rejoice and be glad that EVIL ONE considers us worthy to harass

It is a sign we have something he wants to take away

Do not despair – but rejoice – our redemption is real – Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia AMEN