



Each Wednesday our Chaplain Father Tortora celebrates Mass at Catholic Charities and offers a reflection on the Scripture Reading for the day. We are happy to share with you with Father Tortora's reflection for the celebration of Easter.

EASTER REFLECTION

Have you ever made a major purchase in your life? Perhaps it was a home or a car. You realized quite readily that any significant purchase required a lot of thought in preparation for the acquisition. It may have taken you many hours of work to accumulate the funds for the procurement and you were determined to get the best value for your dollar and wanted to make sure that it would last for many years with optimum efficiency. In accordance with this, you sought a warranty for your investment. You wanted an instrument that would guarantee your purchase for life. However, you soon realized that most guarantees have their limitations – either to select items which are covered or confined to a certain time span – five or ten years perhaps. These restrictions are very disappointing. There is, however, a person who gives a guarantee to your most valuable asset – your life – and the benefits last for all eternity.

Jesus Christ assures us, *“I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, though he should die, will come to life; and whoever is alive and believes in me will never die”* (Jn11:25). This is the essence of Easter. The empty tomb is the silent witness to this message. The enclosure of stones could not hold the Lord of Life. When Christ rose from the dead, he rose with a glorified body. In rising from the dead, Christ assures us – guarantees us – that we will have a new body that lasts forever. A glorified body that is perfect and will never break down....Won't have to worry about taking medication; No hungry or want; No addition or emotional pain; No need for any therapy or treatments; No pet scans, cat scans, blood tests.

Inspired by the example and assurances of the Risen Christ, we at Catholic Charities seek to alleviate some of the earthly concerns of those we serve as we as we live our mission to *“respond the corporeal needs of the poor and marginalized.”* In doing so, we hope *“to provide an experience of God's mercy”* and point to the One who alone can guarantee the fullness of joy in this life and the life to come.

Choose to live your life for Jesus. Make him the center of everything you do. Don't you want to take advantage of this eternal lifetime guarantee?

Reverend James F. Tortora, Ph.D.
Chaplain