

Pastoral Council
Thoughts For Reflection
March 27, 2016

The True End of Natural Life

Easter is infused with the idea of rising from the dead. Many people have had the experience of dying and coming back.

I once knew a man who, as a young boy, had spent more than half an hour at the bottom of a river before he was fished out. He was resuscitated and lived on to do nothing more unusual than selling International Scouts and Travelalls. Doctors say that the cold currents at the bottom of the river kept him alive. Well, maybe.

The rejection of death and the possibility of immortality has obsessed mankind – ancient kings come to mind, buried with all their household goods, food, and servants so they could live on in the style to which they'd become accustomed. The desire for eternal life is strong and attempts to implement it seem to be particularly the domain of the wealthy. Silicon Valley money and technology is the new frontier of everlasting life. Well, good luck with that. They may extend natural life somewhat but will never achieve immortality.

Jesus wasn't the only person to have brought the dead back to life. Prophets in the Old Testament raised people from the dead. I've even heard that some faith healers in the modern era have raised people from the dead – but all of them died later, including the faith healers, because natural life has an end.

But Jesus did something quite different on Easter Sunday. He raised Himself from the dead – not to die again, but to live forever. The form He took on is supernatural.

He says: "I AM the Resurrection." I AM, as we know, is the name of God. I AM is preparing the way for us!

Jesus tells us that not only is eternal life possible, but that we are designed for it. He shows us the way. Through faith, through repentance, through the cross, through death to self, through love of God and our neighbor, through the sacraments of His Church. In other words, through a relationship with Christ Jesus, we are transformed into supernatural beings who will live on, with Him, in Eternity.

He is risen! Hallelujah!