

May 21, 2017 – 6th Sunday of Easter – Cycle A  
Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning! And how are you? Blessed!

Today the second reading, I founded a whole Foundation on the second reading today. The Reason for Our Hope Foundation, my foundation was based on this scripture “always be ready to give the reason for your hope.” I never followed the second part of that real easily about the speak gently or whatever, I never did that, so much. But I always do the first part, the reason for our hope. And in the world today, that’s what I think we need more than anything, we need such hope.

So the first thing I’m going to ask you today is do you have hope? Don’t answer as a group, I just want you to answer this in your heart. Are you a hope filled person? To be a hoped filled person, you are always looking for what’s good. No matter how bad the darkness is you know God is in control and that all things will work together for good. That you have this hope inside of you. Again, it could be for anything but I think this to be a person of hope is such a necessity in today’s world and if we’re not people of hope, we need to think why am I not a person of hope and what must I do to become a person of hope.

Then when it sits there and says, always give a reason, always be ready with the reason for your hope, what’s the reason for our hope, should be the reason for everybody? Jesus right? Jesus is the reason for our hope and when we focus on that, again I would encourage you, you know on our website, The Reason for Our Hope Foundation we have different people every week get up and do a video about the reason for their hope. You know 90% of people say it is Jesus but I always say “why is it Jesus?” Okay we are all going to say it’s Jesus but for you why does Jesus give you hope? You can do that if you’re listening to us now on our podcast, or if you’re sitting there listening here in the church I encourage you to do a two or three minute video with your iPhone or have someone else do it for you and then you send it to us and we will upload it and play it for a week at The Reason for Our Hope Foundation.

But it is important for our hope if it’s in Jesus. To me as I was reflecting on it today I was listening to the Gospel and when Jesus “I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you.” That’s a great reason for hope that we will never be left alone, that God will always come to us. Think about it He says “I’m going to send you another advocate.” Because who was the first advocate? Jesus. But I’m going to send you another one, the Holy Spirit, who we are going to be focused on in a couple weeks at Pentecost, on our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and He will live inside of you. That’s that great hope that we always have God living inside of us that we are never alone, that one day He will come again. That He will take us home to be with Himself.

You know, we did get an emergency call and I sent Nancy out, Kevin Allan passed away this morning, if you knew Kevin, he was here every Sunday, you’d notice in the last month that he had the mask on his face, he’s been quite sick for years. I told him the other day when I

anointed him that I never have anointed anyone in my life as much as I have anointed you. Right? Nobody. I said you're truly making me look bad, they're going to start calling me Fr. Detisch, the Angel of Death, here after a while. But the reality is if Fr. Detisch ever comes to your hospital room, you send him out, unless you are ready to go right now. If you are ready to go, Fr. Detisch you invite him in, you'll be dead in an hour. It's the truth he's the Angel of Death.

But as I was talking to Kevin, Kevin was most ready to go to God. He knew that the reason for his hope was Jesus. That Jesus would not leave him orphaned, but that He was going to come to him soon. But I've talked about many, many times when I'm doing missions and that, what's the greatest healing? Death. Right? And everybody is saying, I don't want that one. But this is what brings us home forever! This is truly our hope that no matter what happens here in this world, no matter how dark it is, this world isn't home. I'm just passing through and that one day Jesus Christ is going to come for me, like He did this morning for Kevin, He's going to bring you and me to eternal life. No matter what. That will give us hope. That Christ loves us and He wants us to be with Him forever. When things get tough, we got to keep that focus on Him. That you want me and you want me to be with you forever.

That one day, as He came for Kevin today, He'll come for each of us. That's not a day to make us sad, it's a day to make us glad. Because we are loved forever by almighty God, and that is the reason for our hope.

You got it? Get it? Gonna live it? May each of you know His love today and forever, Amen.