

Monday of the Octave of Easter “The Celebration Continues”
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The Easter Celebration Continues. You see in the Catholic Church, if something is really worthy of celebration, one day is not sufficient. We are presently in the Octave of Easter which means we are meant to celebrate Easter every day for eight days.

I find it fascinating the first day following Easter we are given this Gospel reading that speaks to the rumors circulating in those days that the disciples of Jesus stole his body and then made the whole story up about his resurrection. It is almost like we are being encouraged to continue to have faith even when the rest of the world might ridicule us for our Easter hope.

However, if we were to look at the Gospels with a historical lens, there are couple really interesting moments when it comes to that theory. First, all the Gospels are in agreement that the disciples fled the night Jesus was arrested and that even Peter himself denied he even knew Jesus. This is something that wouldn't have been reported so clearly by all the Gospels unless that was in fact true and couldn't be color coated. It is absolutely the worst propaganda you could possibly imagine if you are trying to start a new religion on your own. When the chips were down, the disciples all fled. There is universal agreement about that.

The second moment is, a few days later, these same deserters were risking their necks in the public square declaring Jesus' resurrection. All of them suffered for doing this. Most of them were cruelly put to death. There is universal agreement about that as well. So....why would these professional fishermen and accountants who followed Jesus go from desertion to martyrdom in such a short period of time? It is unreasonable to think that they would do this for a lie or for a rouse.

They were out in the public square only days after their desertion because Jesus rose from the dead, just like he said he would. And the world hasn't been the same sense.

And so, a reflection for today could be. What do you believe? As a people who profess faith in the resurrection, we too are called to give witness to this Good News. What does that look like today?