



THE PASTOR'S POST

CRASH OUT

Dear Parish Family:

"OK, guys, look the goal today is to not make Fr. John crash out" said Stasi, one of the sixth graders at our amazing Catholic School. Today is the dress rehearsal day of the Passion Play. It's an incredible tradition that is part of our St. Brigid/Our Lady of Hope Catholic School. This year, I work with the sixth grade. I should have realized when other middle school teachers said, "Oh...Sixth Grade...good luck with that Passion Play!"

I had a grand vision of being an incredible leader and teacher and director. We will move it to different locations and include more parts, I suggested. I thought we would pray with the Bible verses, using contemplative methods into each of the characters, and of course, some assessment that pulled it all together. I thought to myself that we can't just do a play for two or three weeks. Well...it has been a little stressful. I have had some Broadway-like moments like, "I can't go on like this..." or "How can this person be sick? There is no sick" and maybe, just maybe a crash out or two!

I love the sixth graders. What energy and passion - but definitely the cause of a crash out or two! The show goes on tomorrow! We'll see how it all goes. And maybe the Easter season is a better time for contemplation and assessment.

We come here on Easter! If you have been praying with us for the past week or so beginning with Palm Sunday to Holy Thursday to Good Friday to today...there have been some crash outs. Cowards, betrayers, deniers. People running away and hiding. Totally falling apart. And in the midst of the breakdown, Jesus rises from the dead. The broken is made whole. New life is possible.

The truth is that we are all probably guilty of a "crash out" or two in these days and times. How many of us continually give in to some of the same temptations? Others of us are way too quiet when it comes to the issues of justice that we must address. Others of us too busy with "us" to be involved. Some of us live in fear of what might

happen if we do what is right and just, so we do nothing. Crash outs.

Jesus still rises from the dead and that offers you and me some hope that we, too, can rise again after a crash out. That no matter how big the mess may be, no matter how dramatic the fall, no matter how crazy life can get, Easter makes all the difference in the world.

Good news! Jesus still rises from the dead - not just in the Gospels - but in your life and mine. So we come here to celebrate - and there is no place like St. Brigid's for Holy Week and Easter - this resurrection here and now. Our lives can and should be different because we believe Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. So maybe we can ask him for some help with that temptation? Perhaps we can ask for some courage to speak the truth? Maybe we reach out for his mercy or ask his help to pray more!?

More good news! A lot of those people who crashed out on Palm Sunday and Good Friday became the leaders of the Church and got the Church going in the early days. That gives us some hope, no? From their fall, they formed a community to rise, a community confident that Jesus Christ had risen and ascended to heaven. We continue that ministry here at St. Brigid's as we seek to "love without limits". I hope you can find a home here in our prayer, our silence, our formation, our service. Even if you have a crash out or two, you're most welcome!

So, maybe next year, we'll expand to multiple locations, perhaps a seder, more contemplation, maybe a nighttime production. And probably a few crash outs along the way...but that's the path to resurrection.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.

