

# **Bishop Driscoll's 2009 Easter message**

**My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

In the story of the Resurrection, each evangelist tells of the amazement felt by those who first witness the empty tomb.

In John's Gospel, however, Mary Magdalene, filled with sadness, lingers after the Apostles have left. Beside herself with grief, she enters the tomb but does not recognize that she has been joined by two angels, asking her why she is crying.

Her response: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Turning around, Mary faces the resurrected Lord, but mistakes him for the gardener. He also asks her why she is upset. Who is she looking for?

"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned and said to him in Hebrew 'Rabboni!'"

In this story, John says that Simon Peter entered the tomb first, discovered it empty and believed. I think Mary was more like us. She was still carrying the sorrow of the crucifixion in her heart. She was despondent and caught, like many of us, I'm sure, suffering and in pain.

There are many living among us today who have seen our spirits crushed by the loss of a job or a home because of tough economic times. There are also many for whom personal loss may add to the stress of the current recession. We are like Mary, looking for our Lord, without realizing that he is standing right in front of us and beside us. We should not let anxiety or anger or sadness or any distraction get in the way of recognizing Jesus in our midst.

Jesus is present today. He is with us in the Eucharist.

He is with us in our families and in our homes.

He is with us in our jobs, or walking beside us in our job search.

When we turn to him and recognize him, we come to an understanding of the joy Mary felt as the first to see the risen Lord.

I pray that Easter brings you the joy of the Risen Christ in your hearts and your homes during this season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

**Most Rev. Michael P. Driscoll**

**Catholic Bishop of Idaho**