

Today our gospel reading takes place in a room. Seems like a very limited venue for any kind of dramatic post Easter action to occur. But as is often the case, a lot of things can happen in a space created by 4 walls, a ceiling, and a floor. Certainly the atmosphere of a room can be defined by those who enter it. You have heard that some people light up a room when they enter it. Others have been known to hush people's conversations when they enter a room. There are also those who can suck all the oxygen out of a room.

In Eugene O'Neill's play "THE ICEMAN COMETH" the entire play takes place in a bar. The regular patrons are all present including the characters Tommy Hopeful and Jimmy Tomorrow. The play write chose those characters names for a reason. These characters are shackled by illusions of what they could become if they had only been put into a better situation in some future time. They are prisoners of their own regrets. Then an old drinking buddy comes through the door and instead of ordering up, like he always has, he begins to lecture the guys on their illusions. This

friend wanted to get his friends to face their realities and take charge of their wasted lives. Unfortunately, after awhile the drinkers have had enough of this person's conversation and they throw him out. These sad individuals would rather wallow in their misery then push off into the uncharted waters of the future.

Back in our gospel in the upper room the disciples are despondent and afraid. Something dreadful has happened to their friend and teacher and they have no idea how to cope. They are not sure what the next step should be. Where do they go from here? They had such a bright future with Jesus and there world was going to be such a different place. But then their dreams were shattered thanks to the crucifixion. Some of the followers went back to their old pursuits while the few remaining disciples huddled like scared sheep in the Upper room. With their illusions crushed they just sat and stared at each other. This Upper Room was becoming their tomb.

Then Jesus, their old friend appeared to them to rescue them from their own personal doubts and fears. The resurrected Jesus offered his peace and encouragement to them. With this reassurance, he sent them forth to illuminate the world with the New Light of Christ's resurrection.

In a similar fashion we are all gathered in this room which is our church. We are also being called to evaluate our own mindset now that Easter is a week old. Have we managed to keep alive the spirit that filled us after we walked the Easter path?; Or has the thrill and joy of Easter started to fade now that we are returning to our jobs, our schools and our routines of life.

If the light of Easter is beginning to fade then we need to focus our attention on the words that Christ spoke to his disciples in that Upper room. "Peace be with you." "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but belief!" Jesus is here today to coax us out of our self made tombs in order to liberate us from our doubts and fears.

God wants us to move out into our world and share the good news of the resurrection as well as his call for Divine Mercy which we also celebrate on this weekend. By both our words and our actions it is our mission to keep the resurrected Christ alive for others in our world.