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**3rd Sunday of Easter,
April 29-30, 2017**

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?
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Living Catholic in the 808: What Easter Means to Me

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Of all the mysteries of our faith, I'll admit, I've always been a Christmas person. That the One who is fully divine loves us so much as to also become fully human, well, that will always take my breath away.

As I age, however, Easter takes on more meaning. I'm at an age where I am experiencing my first diminishment, life limitations I either did not have or did not notice just a few short years ago. And, like every other human being, I don't like it. God did not create us to like loss!

Easter helps me face diminishment in two important ways. First, I am astounded that Jesus, fully divine and fully human, chose not to eliminate my pain, but to join me in it. Quite simply, Jesus joins me in my suffering. God's-very-self is there with every suicide, every abuse, every hunger, every pain. Even my pains, petty though most of those may be.

Giving meaning to suffering could be enough. But, Easter isn't (just) about suffering. Jesus conquered death. Literally. One day, I will die. Before that, I will suffer. God-willing, I will face many diminishment in my life. Easter means Jesus will transform them. Through Easter, through the Resurrection, Jesus brings (me) life.
