



Can Google Solve Death?
Easter Sunday Homily
April 16, 2017
10:00 a.m., 12 Noon

1. How many of you have Gmail accounts? How many of you have used Google for internet searches?
 - most likely all of us, or most of us
 - in fact there are over 425 million Gmail accounts out there
 - and Webster's Dictionary recently added the word "Google" to its catalogue of words
 - but that's not all . . . Google is the founder of Instagram and Uber
 - it is, no doubt, a dominating presence
 - but now Google has created Google Ventures, and a research center called Google X
 - they are working on a pill that would insert nanoparticles into our bloodstream to detect cancer and other diseases
 - which could allow for new treatments for disease, allowing human beings to live longer
 - imagine a world in which there would be a fix for the harmful effects of smoking, or alcohol, or too much sun
 - a world in which Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease were eradicated
 - a Bloomberg magazine in April 2015 headline read, "Google Wants You to Live Forever."
 - and Time Magazine's headline was "Can Google Solve Death?"
 - in an interview with Bill Maris, a partner in this new venture, he admitted fear about his work saying, "Time is one thing I can't get back and can't give back to you. We have the tools in the life sciences to achieve anything that you have the audacity to envision, I just hope to live long enough not to die."
 - "in the end, we are all headed to the same place"

2. Google may succeed in helping us to extend life in productive ways
 - but Jesus Christ does something that Google can't do – give life meaning, purpose, richness and eternity
 - that's what we, as Catholic Christians do today – celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - the Son of God who lived, ate, felt, experienced all aspects of humanity we do – including the most horrific, painful death, death on the Cross – has been raised from the dead and lives forever
 - and he promises us that if we believe in Him, follow Him, love Him – then the same will be true for us
 - and we must share this Good News for the whole world

3. The evidence of death is certainly all around us
 - global wars, terror attacks, disease, poverty, cruelty
 - mental illness, betrayals, rejection, the death of loved ones
 - all these things can depress us into disbelief

- they have the potential to undermine our faith in the Easter miracle
4. Yet, the witnesses we hear from Scripture – people who saw depressing, distressing things happen to Jesus – who saw themselves powerless to stop horrific things from happening
 - they who shared our disbelief tell how that disbelief was overcome as death was overcome
 - and the proof . . . an empty tomb . . . angelic testimony
 - and, in days and weeks to come, they share their encounters with the Risen Jesus
 - and it changes them – from fear to conviction
 - from sorrow to joy, from disbelief to proclamation
 - Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead
 5. As we come together on this Easter day, our hearts need to be fixed, focused on the desire to live forever
 - but not with a fear-filled survival mentality where we simply try to outrun death
 - but, rather, seeing the new life that Jesus promises
 - he isn't just resuscitated back to his same old self
 - he is transformed . . . into a new, abundant life
 - he promises us that same transformation for each of us
 - and those who are baptized begin that new life, start living forever now
 6. What does that kind of living look like?
 - it may be casting off our fears
 - living with the certitude of being a beloved son or daughter of God – capable of great things
 - following Him with every fiber of our being
 - letting his words, his presence direct our decisions, our priorities, our entire lives
 - to share abundantly, live selflessly, love deeply without counting the cost
 - when we start living like that, life looks and is very different
 - we experience Jesus' life within us both now and forever
 7. Pope Francis said in an Easter homily a few years back
 - “let us not be closed to the newness God wants to bring into our lives!”
 - there are no situations God cannot change
 8. In the end, yes, Google may make life more prolonged
 - but only the Risen Christ can transform it, bringing it joy, meaning, and purpose
 - may the joy this feast proclaims be with us always
 - and may Christ's love for us in this life, be a foretaste of our life forever with Him