

We can bear witness to what we see and hear. This is what the apostles did after the resurrection. We do not see and hear Jesus in the same way they did, but we do see and hear God's mighty deeds, wonders and signs. We can bear witness to Christ and we must bear witness to Christ.

In our reading from Acts of the Apostles today, Peter stands before a group in Jerusalem and bears witness to what he had seen and heard. Jesus was a Nazarene who worked mighty deeds through the hand of God. He was crucified, and God raised him from the dead. Peter says, "it was impossible for Jesus to be held by death." Peter appeals to the people. They had seen and heard Jesus too. They could bear witness to Christ, and they had to bear witness to Christ.

Today we bear witness to the deeds of God. At our Easter Vigil this year, four people were baptized here – a mother and her daughter, a father and his son. As they stepped into the font, they bore witness. They professed aloud their belief in Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For St. Patrick's Day Father Michael O'Shea visited us from St. Munchin Church in Limerick, Ireland. Father Michael inspired us with his passion for the priesthood and his care for the poor. Before he left, we contributed to a charity he supports – the St. Joseph House orphanage in Romania. This week I received a letter from the director of that orphanage, thanking us for the very generous gift of \$2,282.37. Our contributions are already improving the health and education of 77 children from the most impoverished families of Bucharest. Father Michael bore witness to us, and we bore witness with him.

Also here in the parish, more and more people are helping with our upcoming capital campaign to preserve our church for future generations. Our volunteers are bearing witness to their faith.

Last weekend you signed hundreds of cards about stem cell research. The Missouri State legislature is debating the legality of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer. In a lab, scientists can replace the nucleus of an egg cell with the nucleus of another body cell. This fertilizes the egg. The cell divides, and it generates stem cells in the lab. Some are arguing that the fertilized egg is not a human being, because it is used for therapeutic purposes, not to become a child. But the Catholic Church teaches that a fertilized human egg is a human embryo whether it grows in a lab dish or in a woman's uterus. Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer is the cloning of humans. Our church is losing this argument in the Missouri legislature, but last weekend you bore witness to your faith.

Pope John Paul would have been proud of all this witnessing. He bore witness to Christ by his life, his teaching and his suffering, as four million mourners have confirmed this week. We can bear witness and we must bear witness to what we have seen and heard.