

I invited Fr. Lyons over for dinner a few nights ago. We have a tradition to eat lamb together on Holy Thursday evening. About three years ago, I had a guest in town who offered to cook the lamb for us. I'm still not sure what exactly my friend did--and I watched him do it--but he cooked the juiciest, most flavorful lamb we'd ever had. I can never recreate it, but each year we sit down to that meal, we tell the story again of what a wonderful lamb that was.

Wherever you eat your Easter dinner today, I'll bet you're going to hear stories you've heard each year. Some you enjoy telling time and again. Others you're sick and tired of. Sometimes your uncle will start a story and your aunt will say, "No it wasn't like that at all," and he'll say, "Let me tell it my way and you can tell it your way." It doesn't really matter which version is true, since each version carries some truth that must be told.

The story the Church tells on Easter is the resurrection of Jesus. If you line up the four Gospels, you'll see they do not agree on the details of this story. They're like members of the family arguing over which version is right. Was there one angel or two? How many people went to the tomb? Was anyone else there? Was there an earthquake? You'd think they'd all remember an earthquake. They do agree on one crucial point: the tomb was empty early in the morning after the sabbath.

The stories that mean the most to us yearn to be told. They are stories which shaped our families and our beliefs, close calls about dangerous events, and funny things we want others to share. Our family meals are filled with stories, and so is the Catholic family meal we call the Mass. Each week we tell another story from the Bible, and then we share our meal.

When you eat your Easter meal today, your stories will reveal what's important: the history of your family, the values you hold, and the playfulness of your love. So, tell some stories, or better yet--make some stories. Let this be a day that future generations will remember, a day that binds us together with an event so remarkable that the story has to be told.