

# *Pastor's Message for March & April 2008*

By: Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

## *Hope*

Hope is more important than faith.

One, of course, is never fully distinct from the other. But there are priorities.

In this season of spring and Easter, in this time of Renewal and Resurrection, in this remembrance of Eucharist and Passover, hope is the climate and atmosphere of our lives.

The Churches often stress belief in Easter rather than hope from Easter. I have met people who believed in a very orthodox interpretation of Easter but who lived lives of abiding despair and quiet desperation.

Hope is more contagious than faith, easier to communicate, more welcome, less intrusive and not judgmental.

Those who live by hope have taken faith deeper into the psyche and sinews of their lives. A hopeful person is less grim than a true believer.

Easter means that hope is inexhaustible, that absolute rejection and unrelenting pain and crucifixion itself cannot end it. When hope was nailed to the cross, death and despair prevailed but hope was renewed.

If we do not live in hope, we have no faith. If we have faith, it generates hope. And hope makes love possible.

Anthony