Homily Outline for the Easter Vigil
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
April 20, 2019

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I. Easter Vigil liturgy
   A. Most complex liturgy of the year
      1. Lots of “moving parts”
      2. Blessing of fire, Proclamation of Easter Praise, 9 scripture readings (overview
         of salvation history from Genesis to Jesus), baptism, renewal of baptismal
         promises, reception into full communion, Confirmation, Eucharist
   B. Most important liturgy of the year
      1. Unfortunately, that is not reflected in attendance.
      2. More people at 4:00 PM Christmas Eve – overflow crowd in the Atrium
         a. The incarnation is a great mystery to be celebrated;
         b. But without the resurrection, the birth of Jesus is just a historical footnote
            if the life of Jesus ends on Good Friday.
   C. Longest liturgy of the year
   D. Most important liturgy of the year
      1. Same length of time as most sporting events
      2. Noteworthy that people rarely complain that football games are too long!
      3. Perhaps that is because people see sporting events as something happening
         now, while Holy Week just recalls historical events from long ago.

II. While Holy Week does recall historical events from long ago, it is much more than
    that; it is a live celebration of what is happening now in the Church
   A. A real person—Jordan—will be baptized tonight
   B. Real people—Daren, Janet and Kate—will be received into full communion with
      the Catholic Church tonight
   C. Lent and Easter are about growing in our faith.
   D. This is what makes the Church alive now!

III. Burning of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris
   A. I am confident that Notre Dame Cathedral will be rebuilt.
      1. Millions of dollars have already been pledged for the rebuilding.
      2. Protestors (9,000 “Yellowjackets”) in Paris complained that this money should
         be used for the working class.
      3. Apparently the spirit of the French Revolution has not yet been extinguished!
   B. Silver lining is that rebuilding Notre Dame Cathedral may help rebuild the
      community of faith in France.
IV. Easter is the celebration of new life!
   A. We are all called to renew our lives of faith.
   B. Our Lord’s resurrection opens the gates of heaven with the hope of eternal life for us as well.
   C. May God give us this grace. Amen.