

Easter Vigil
April 20, 2019
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Reflection

I'm not writing up my Easter Vigil homily either, but this is a summary of what I'll say:

1. Yesterday I mentioned that the Crown of Thorns was rescued at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.
2. It reminds us of the contempt or detachment that Jesus had at his betrayal, denial, accusation, mocking and striking.
3. His crown was rescued by the hands of men: firefighters and their chaplain, Fr. Jean-Marc Fournier.
4. Heroes who went into fires like hell; like Jesus into Sheol.
5. Those receiving the sacraments tonight share in this heroism.
6. They are receiving a faith that others deny, accuse, mock and betray.
7. But something else was also spared...a little story...hives of bees on a lower roof!
8. 180,00 of them who make 150 lbs of honey per year.
9. The beekeeper said, "Thank goodness the flames didn't touch them. It's a miracle!" They were rescued by providence; God's hand at work.
10. The deacon mentioned bees in the Exsultet; the Paschal Candle is "the work of bees and of your servants' hands."

11. Its light is "a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious."

12. Soon we will once more hold our candles aloft; a symbol of faith; the gift and work of God; the light of Christ spread by the sacraments with hope and love.

13. "O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human."