

APRIL 11, 2026 FATHER PETER JAE CHOI

Back in 2002, there was a blockbuster movie called *The Four Feathers*. It told the story about a young British officer named Harry Feversham, who had to overcome his personal doubts and fears in order to reclaim his honour and win back the love of his life.

Harry had just completed his training and celebrated his engagement when the Colonel announced that the regiment was being dispatched to Egypt to rescue the British general, Charles Gordon. Harry chose a safer option and resigned from the army. He thought his decision would be well-received by his family and his fiancée.

But unfortunately, his father disowned him, and three of his best friends each gave him a white feather, which symbolized cowardice. His fiancée also gave him a white feather and broke off their engagement. Haunted by the shame of receiving four white feathers, he decides to reclaim his honour. He undertakes a dangerous journey to rescue his friends from perilous situations. He ended up saving the lives of his friends who condemned him and gave him white feathers.

Harry was no longer the coward he used to be. He became a brave soldier who risked his life for his friends. At the end of the movie, Harry's father acknowledges Harry as his son. His former fiancée, Ethne, reclaimed her feather from Harry, and they were engaged again.

In the Gospel, we find the eleven disciples hiding together in the upper room because they were afraid of persecution from the authorities. When they heard that Jesus rose from the dead, they didn't believe it. They didn't believe Mary Magdalene, and they didn't believe the two who saw Jesus with their own eyes.

So when Jesus appeared to them, he rebuked them for their lack of faith.

Jesus told his disciples in Saint John's Gospel, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe."

A familiar phrase, seeing is believing, is not entirely true. Because if I see it, I know it. I don't need to believe in something I already know. For example, I own a car. I don't need to believe it, because I already know I do.

Faith, on the other hand, is having a certainty of knowledge on something we haven't seen. I believe that bread and wine, once consecrated, truly becomes the body and blood of Christ. I believe in eternal life and God's heavenly kingdom not because I've seen it with my own eyes, but because I believe in the authority and credibility of Jesus, who revealed it to the disciples.

Peter and John came to realize this. Their faith made them boldly share the good news of salvation with the rest of the world. The leaders, elders, and scribes were shocked when they found out Peter and John were just ordinary men. Peter and John were neither esteemed scholars nor held important posts like them. Even with no education and social influence backing their credentials, the disciples spoke with boldness and conviction.

The threat of persecution couldn't dampen their apostolic zeal and determination to carry out their divine mandate to go and proclaim the good news to all creation.

They'd rather suffer the consequences of civil disobedience than disobey God's command to evangelize the world.

They bravely overcame their fear and became zealous apostles who shared their faith in the good news. Peter and John were ordinary men.

You don't have to be ordained clergy or professed religious to preach the good news.

Anyone can do it. In fact, God expects you and me to share the good news.

I remember this story I heard from a priest friend of mine.

A young priest was giving a tour of the church to a group of grade two students. He took time to explain the presence of Christ in the tabernacle and explained the importance of the crucifix, the altar, the stations of the cross, and the confessional. After the tour was finished, just to make sure that the children were paying attention, the priest asked them a question: “Tell me one important lesson you've learned today.”

Little Johnny puts up his hand enthusiastically and points to the exit sign.

All his classmates started to giggle, trying to hold back their laughter. The priest was feeling upset, but he decided to be patient and asked Johnny to explain what he meant.

Johnny explained, “I think the exit sign is very important, because when we walk out the door, our faith comes alive.”

Johnny wasn't wrong.

What we do inside the church matters. Our worship and prayer is very important. But how we live out our faith matters.

We can all say that we believe in God, but how many of us can truly say, “I trust him,” or, “I serve him,” and really mean it?

We all saw that the disciples were afraid at first, and they chose a safer option of hiding in the upper room. But their encounter with their risen Lord changed everything. They overcame their fear with courage and boldness.

Today's Gospel reminds us that when Jesus rose from the dead, we've been given a newness of life and a new beginning. That's why today's Gospel says Sunday became the first day of new creation and the first day of the week.

When we use the word “weekend,” the semantics of the word makes it sound like we're giving God the leftovers.

Let's not give God the leftovers or our minimal efforts.

What we give to God matters.

God deserves our first day, our first fruits, and our very best.