

EASTER 2015

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 03

Easter in us! Each generation and each believer must encounter the Risen Jesus. They are brought into the great mystery that Christ is alive among us, May, 2015!

An Easter Newsletter

Number 5, May 03, 2015

Fifth Sunday readings:

AA 6, 1-7

1 Pet. 2, 4-9

Jn. 14, 1-12

It is not good that we should neglect the word of God.

Select from among yourselves seven men



Of good standing, full of the the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task.



We will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word

They had these men stand before the apostles who prayed and laid their hands on them

EASTER IN US!

Charlie summed it up well when he said: "My family members are having such a hard time not to come to church to get something but rather to share of their gifts, talents and energy. This shift is more difficult than we anticipate for many born Catholics."

When you were baptized, this was a sign that you have been brought into the mystery and the life of Jesus Christ. This is your life source! This is your energy to

The Resurrection of Jesus happens when we enter into prayer, that is, enter into the very heart and the mercy of Jesus Christ.

serve and love the world! You are part of the Christ!

No one should ever be considered baptized because their mother dragged them off to the parish church to get a religious ritual done to a non-protesting baby! You are only baptized when you live the Christian life. It is in making real the teaching and the practices of Jesus when you buy our groceries, deal with our relatives, speak about people who

are different from ourselves that our baptism flourishes and becomes real.

The fifty days of Easter are a season to be deepened into the life and mystery of Jesus Christ. Even if you have been at this 'religious' thing all your life, this is a season of new awakening. This is the time to see the risen Jesus in new ways.





THE FIRST WILL BE LAST AND THE LAST WILL BE FIRST

When you read the accounts of the resurrected Jesus have you noticed that it has not been anyone who was rich, powerful, well-educated and socially well connected who encountered Jesus?

Why was it that the very ordinary workers, the little ones without power (i.e, the women) meet the risen Jesus?

This is how God works. The people whom society think are important are not considered first in the way that God works. We need to be reminded that six times in the gospels teaching that “the first will be last and the last will be first” occurs. It is very significant to the teaching of Jesus.

This is why the first person who encountered the risen Jesus was a woman, Mary of Magdela. She is not singled out because she is a woman but rather because she is poor, a little one of this world.

To live with the Risen Jesus means that we must become very open to the ways that the poor and the

little ones of this world will teach us and lead us to God.

Take time this Sunday to reflect back on the people who brought you to God. Who made a significant contribution to your faith? Who helped you to live and practice the Gospel life?

How have little children, the handicapped, those struggling with their health, the new Canadians, the woman who cleans the floor in your hospital room, helped you to find Jesus, risen and alive among us?

Has even dull Sunday teachings alerted you to the presence of the Risen Christ?

Too often the poor (without power) get pushed aside in this society. Now, among the disciples of Jesus, this is where we are to look for the workings of the Risen Jesus. This is where we are being stretched to live this new life.

The follower of Jesus has always meant to be a person who has seen a new light and has been called to live a new life based on Jesus Christ.

This week, look around in your parish church. How are you being encouraged to live the resurrection of Jesus? How are you helping others live their resurrection call?

CHECK LIST: RESURRECTION SENSITIVITY?

1. There have been moments in my life when the poor and the little ones opened my eyes to see Jesus in a new way? Yes/No
2. Often, we have heard how important the poor and the little ones are to our lives?
Yes/No
3. There are times when I suffer from the illusion that the rich and powerful are the people that really count in this life?
Yes/No
4. The resurrection of Jesus can make me uncomfortable?
Yes/No



BELIEVE STANDING ON YOUR FEET

Every human being is composed of great light and some strong darkness. There is a struggle throughout our entire life to deal with the power of our own darkness. We may be very hard working and efficient. We always get the job done! That is our light. But in moments of honesty, we can hear ourselves criticize other people who cannot work as hard and as steady as we can. That is our darkness!

Only when we take ownership of our light and our darkness can we say that we are beginning to live an adult life.

In our Church we have great light: a strong sense of what to do and how to do it. But there is great darkness: we do not call each other to an adult faith life! People are 'born' into the religion and unfortunately that is all that there is! Birth records in some parish register!

Each of the Sundays of Easter we are being challenged to live as the disciples of the resurrected Christ. It must be evident in our lives that Christ is truly risen.

This Sunday we hear the command of Jesus: Believe in

God, believe also in me! (Jn. 14, 1)

Belief is never something that we have in our head. It is never an intellectual construct.

Perhaps the parishioner who sits in the same bench as you do has shared what it means to believe. He is an avid cyclist. He even rides his bike to work throughout all the winter. "I really believe in paying attention to all the safety rules. When I was seventeen and very careless, I changed lanes without checking and was almost run over by this little grandmother who screamed at my stupidity." There is a pause. Your avid cyclist finishes the story. "I believe because I have lived through the safety lessons" Now, it is all so very real to him every time he gets on his bike!

Speak and listen to Jesus as the real person that he is! Listen to his concerns in your prayer and in the Scriptures.

Walk with him as he touches the lives of the people struggling with addictions to alcohol and to the casino. Get your finger on the pulse of Jesus. Feel what he feels.

Now, the command to believe will make sense.

"Easter in us," means to live with the resurrected Jesus.

EASTER IN US THIS WEEK

Be the energy that will enable me to reschedule my day so that I can drive up to the cancer ward of our hospital to spend a little time with my co-worker. She has no one of her family around her.

Be the conviction in our soul to stand up to those people who run down anyone who is different from their own type. They have a shrinking vision of what it means to be a human being. Give me courage for those tough encounters.

Give me the initiative to listen to the stories of the hundreds of refugees throughout the world. I know that you are teaching us that the concern within my heart is moving the world toward greater justice. Move my slacking spirit.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Jesus will teach you how to believe and how to live!



He must rise from the dead

RESURRECTION SURPRISES

NO ONE EVER EXPECTED THE RESURRECTION

Believing in Jesus makes all the difference in life. We are connected with the very mystery of the Trinity. We are connected to God.

BELIEVE WITH YOUR HANDS AND FEET

The command we hear from Jesus: "Believe in me" may sound a little flat to our Western ears. In the Bible, the verb, to believe, is not primarily concerned about what happens in our minds.

This is all about how we respond with our lives, our feelings and our actions. Belief is actually manifested in how we actually live. What I do, is what I believe!

Jesus is saying to us: live and love God as I love God. Be faithful to God in all things as I am faithful to God. Be a person of prayer, just as I am a person of prayer.

And toward your fellow human beings: bring healing and goodness wherever there is brokenness. Where people experienced being disrespected, bring goodness to those who get pushed aside.

Value the little ones, the ordinary folk and those who get lost in our big, fast moving society.

You wear your faith in your hands and in your attitudes. This is a life-decision; a life direction.



PRAY OVER THESE IMPORTANT WORDS FROM OUR SUNDAY READINGS.

KEY WORDS

John 14,1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled."



John 14,1

Believe in God, believe also in me.

John 14,7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and you have seen him.

John 14,8

Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied.



John 14,9

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

John 14,11

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.