

EASTER 2016

The Lord is Risen!
You reply:
Indeed!
The Lord is Risen!



May the
resurrected Jesus
overflow your heart
and your soul

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus pours out his Spirit to the people of the Church. Their lives are meant to be filled with hope, with power and the strong compassion of God. They are sent to be the living continuation of Jesus Christ.

Cheryl reflected on her years of child-raising. “When we brought our first baby home we were so young and thought we knew so much. My, my did we ever have a lot to learn about life. It took us two decades to unpack the implications of giving birth to our first child. And then, when we finally got it figured out, he left home and went on his own. He no longer needed his parents.” She looked intently out the window for just a minute. “It was sad to see him leave home but it all fell into place. Our task as parents was complete.”

Now the people of the Church must do the same thing. We must unpack the

implications of the resurrection. Jesus was actually raised from the dead. He has been revealed and given to the disciples. They are meant to be the living continuation of Jesus Christ.

In this bulletin we will try to unpack some of the meaning of the resurrection as it applies to us. This is never a task that has been completed by our forefathers and foremothers. Each generation must have the resurrection made real for them in this space and time.

The Holy Spirit is always being poured out afresh. It is within this space and time that we are meant to discover the deep implications of the Holy Spirit.



Here is a question:

Up to this point in your life, who has helped to unpack the meaning and the demands of the Resurrection for you?

RESURRECTION IS



In a world torn by war and violence, plant the peace of Christ.

It is too easy to lament the evils that bombard us at every newscast. We were never meant to be crushed by evil. Rather, this strengthens us to plant good, justice and respect. Wherever there are people who have a violent tongue, plant words of goodness.

RESURRECTION IS PEACE MAKING

When the risen Jesus appeared to the disciples he used the common greeting, "Peace." Now that it is spoken by the risen Lord it takes on new meaning. The coming of God among us is always an event of peace and harmony.

When you think of the peace-making of Jesus think of the ways that he brought in the excluded (the lepers, the poor and the prostitutes) into the fold of God. Those who were unwanted are now wanted and included by God.

When people are pushed aside and considered to be inferior because they are the wrong age, the wrong color or language, the wrong gender, they will react back in the negative way in which they are pushed aside. The resurrected Jesus changes all this.

Everyone is meant to be included with Jesus.

If we have any doubts about who is pushed aside, we only need to look around at work. Who are the people who are not recognized for their talents and the contribution they are making to our work? Look around at the district in which you live. Who is forgotten or finds it difficult to just get around to get their own groceries?

The peace-making of Jesus is the outstretched hands of Jesus to the poor and the dispossessed.

Whenever one of the believers reaches out to the people on the margins, they are bringing the peace of Christ to the world. They are the living hands of Christ to the world.

It will be in our actions that the love of God will become alive in and through us.

Be alive in our hands and face, every day



RESURRECTION IS BREAKING OUR LIVES AND SHARING OUR LIVES....

Each Sunday the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus in the holy Eucharist. The power of the ritual is the sharing of the life of Jesus Christ with us, his people. Jesus takes his life, breaks it and shares it with us. This is a real sharing in the love and mercy of Jesus. As he lived his life, breaking it and sharing it, so now the believers break their lives and share their lives with others.

The opposite of a life of sharing is selfishness. There is no room for selfish people in the Kingdom of God. Selfish people are focused only on themselves, maintaining their own security and working hard to make sure other people recognize their success.

Selfishness is the ego on steroids!

Jesus lives and practices just the opposite. The meaning of Jesus' life is to take his life like

good bread, break it and share it. The meaning of the sacrifice on the cross is the giving of divine life for all people. It is an outpouring of love and mercy to human beings. It is always a sacrifice of love. Today, we need to take the cross in our hands and recognize with what great love Jesus gave his life to God the Father and to us.

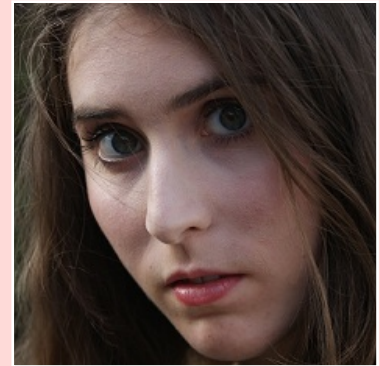
Now, to live and practice the resurrection is to break our lives in love and service for God and for others.

On this second Sunday of Easter reflect on the moments where you share your life like good bread with the poor and the hungry of this world.

Break and share your life by going to visit a family member who is suffering dementia and now lives in a nursing home. Be the face of the living Christ to her.



RESURRECTION IS



On this second Sunday of Easter...

give a call to the co-worker whose husband is battling cancer and the chemotherapy treatment is very difficult for the husband. Give a gentle moment to listen to her struggles with this cancer.

EASTER IN US

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

Jn. 20, 21

One of the sure signs that a person is growing in adulthood is to recognize and accept that your parents had deficiencies. They were far from perfect and did not do everything right at all times. We need to forgive and embrace their limitations.

The same goes for our religious upbringing. There were many shortcomings and things that we were not taught. We need to embrace these shortcomings.

Now, one area that did not receive enough attention is the power within the Church to break the power of sin and evil.

When Jesus sent the disciples to forgive sins he did not mean, forgive them and then just leave them go. He sent us to break the power of evil and end the violence that cripples human life.

Perhaps in your own family one of your great-uncles took advantage of another brother. He swindled him out of a lot of money. Now, seventy years later the wound still festers. Your family has

nothing to do with the descendants of this great-uncle.

The evil does not disappear. It may be swept under the carpet but it still has power to influence our family life today.

Also, consider the evil of effects of racism. One group of people were named as inferior and not deserving of equal treatment within the society. There are strong feelings of anger. Even if this was generations-ago the power of evil still is active. It is like the smoldering fire down in an old cold mine. The coal mine may have been closed decades ago but there was a fire in the mine that is still burning, ever so slowly but it is still there.

Jesus sends us to break the violence, the hatred and the rejection that warps our lives and society. When we work for justice and equality we are working to



**Resurrection
always means
being sent**

bring healing and forgiveness to our world. This is what living the resurrection means.

Today, where does the mission to break the violence apply in your life? in Canada?

Send us, Risen Lord

to walk with the people who do not know you. They were never raised in a praying family and never took any part in the life of a faith community. Send us to these people to share your love and compassion toward all peoples.

Send us, Risen Lord

Help us to be patient with troublesome divorces, discouraging cancer treatments and all the hurts caused by addicted family members in their struggles with drugs, alcohol and the casino.

Send us, Risen Lord

to be the soul-friend to those who find life burdensome, lonely and difficult. Send us to be the moment of joy and hope in their lives.