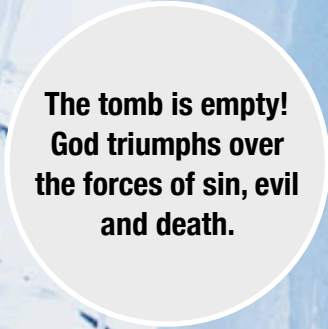


EASTER 2016

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



**The tomb is empty!
God triumphs over
the forces of sin, evil
and death.**

DO NOT SELL THE RESURRECTION SHORT!

The resurrection of Jesus happened during the night. This is a real historical event. But it must never stop there. Now, Jesus must be resurrected in each one of the believers. You and I must be the sign of the resurrected Jesus.

— An adult is one who lives and works with his/her strengths and failures. We accept that we can be over-bearing and demand too much from other people. Maybe they have the wisdom to confront us with our faults and failures. A balanced adult will accept that they have to work on this character defect.

When sincere people challenge the people of the Church not to sell the resurrection short they are moving us to acknowledge that we do not allow the power and the dynamism of the resurrection to move and shape our lives.

Maybe we are too pious and only want to do the right things, or maybe we are so fascinated with how good we are (i.e., therefore I am spiritual) that there is no space within our lives for the resurrection of Jesus to break through.

If the resurrection of Jesus is real, it made all the difference in the lives of the fearful disciples. Their security was blasted out of the waters when they moved from being very afraid, to bursting out into the streets of Jerusalem and share the 'good news' that God was alive and working among them.

This was a new time. A new age had begun in the resurrected Jesus.



Here is a question:
Does it take more courage or less courage to live and believe the way of Jesus than it does to walk the path of the atheist?

RESURRECTION IS



Have you ever prayed that the resurrection should happen in you?

The resurrection is always the living and sharing of the Son of God. Pray that the mercy and the goodness of God be manifested in your life towards your family members and your co-workers. Christ must come alive in your face!

THE RESURRECTION IS LIVED IN ITS CONSEQUENCES

We are an Easter people. It is never sufficient that the parish priest teach us the correct teachings about Christ. It must be made real in the lives of us, the people who believe.

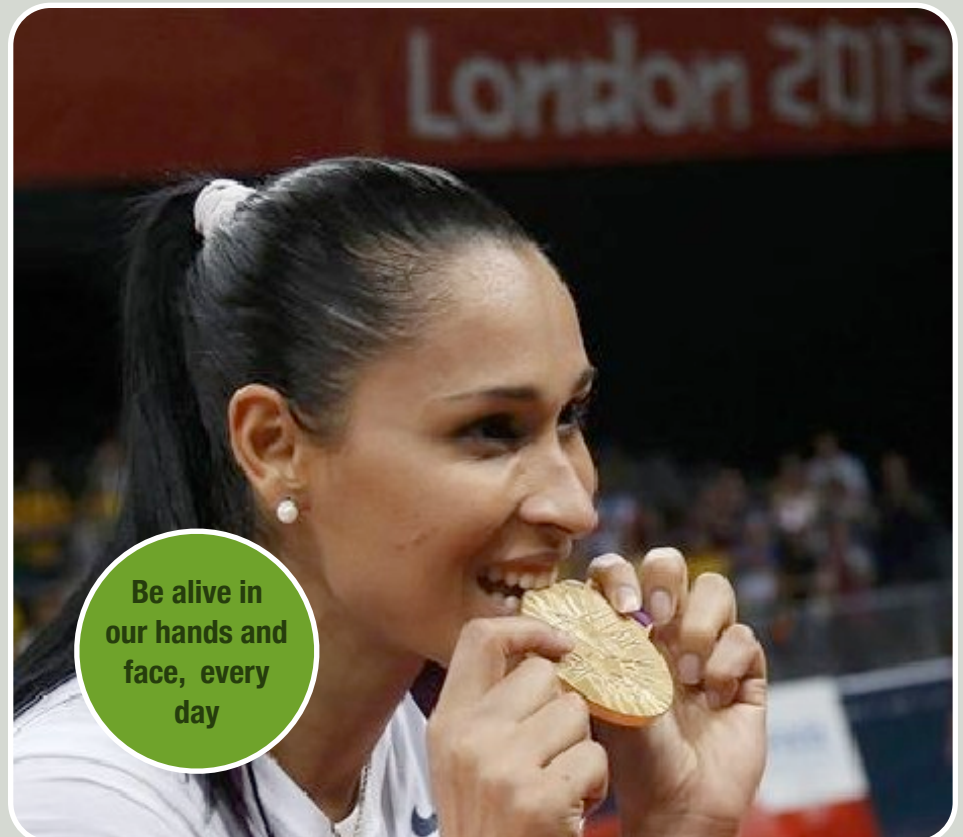
When the news that Jesus has risen from the dead first broke there was serious skepticism. The resurrection story from the Gospel of Luke (Lk. 24,11) tells us that many people treated this story as an idle tale. No one was about to believe it. But Peter got up and investigated. He looked into the empty tomb. He saw the linen cloths (death clothes) within the tomb. It was empty! "He went home, amazed at what had happened."

Our people are not used to being challenged but the very event of resurrection challenges us. Will I be like the skeptics who thought this was an idle tale? Or will I be like Peter and investigate?

This Easter investigate what the first witnesses of the resurrection tell us. We will hear their stories throughout the seven weeks of the Easter season.

But also investigate what has happened in the people of your church community who believe. Do not take their Christian life style for granted or write it off by concluding 'well, you do your own thing.'

When you have too much religion in your family you take it for granted that 'it is just the way it is,' and, you can ignore it. When the resurrection of Jesus happens within our lives it must never be ignored.



Be alive in
our hands and
face, every
day

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS OF THE RESURRECTION AMONG US....

When you reflect on how you grew up and matured you observe that the people who had the greatest impact on you were those who were authentic human beings. What they spoke was what they lived. The teacher who gave you extra time to make sure that you improved in your reading skills was based on her commitment to make sure you would learn and develop in grade seven. It may not have always been enjoyable but she was there on the good days and the not so good days (i.e., the days you wanted to have twelve-year-old-laziness). Her determination to make you succeed became a part of who you are.

The surest sign that Jesus was alive in the here and now was the enthusiasm with which the first Christians embraced the teaching of Jesus. They put into practice the vision and the new life that he gave

them. He taught them that they could only come alive if they shared their lives with the poor, as he shared his life with the poor of this world.

One of the surest signs that Jesus is alive is to practice his teaching and to love our enemies (Lk. 6,27-31).

When human beings have been hurt, exploited or bombed out, they want to retaliate and get even. Often they want to inflict more pain on the offender. But Jesus has come to break the violence. Stop inflicting pain and destruction on one another. When you hear the next news report of violence and destruction, try to imagine what could happen if we could change the violence in this world?

Where do you see signs of the resurrection of Jesus among us where violence is changed by forgiveness and healing?



**Make my
day a sign of
your
resurrection**

RESURRECTION IS.....



On this Easter Sunday...

burst forth with the new life of forgiveness and healing.

May I seek to break the violence and self-centeredness of so much of our lives. May your divine mercy overflow our lives.

EASTER IN US

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

Jn. 20, 21


The Church is working to be recovered by its Easter message. The resurrection of Jesus was a historical event. There was a definite time and place that God the Father raised him from the dead. But it does not stop there.

Now, the resurrection must happen in each one of us. This is the message and the task that is set before the Church during these seven weeks of the Easter season. Today's followers of Jesus must bring to life the risen Jesus within them. This follows the great mystery of the incarnation: God has become one of us in Jesus. Now the spirit of Jesus is given to us to become the living continuation of Jesus Christ.

We know that what Jesus has done in his earthly life is the revelation of what God is actually like. His life and teaching are a living revelation of God. He has set the standard of how his followers should live. They are sent to be the continuation of the love and mercy of God in their own time and place.

In a world where people get forgotten, we are sent to bring our concern and compassion to them. Think how significant it is to have someone show a little bit of interest in you when you are in the nursing home and have only a changing rotation of staff members who know you. What does it mean to have a sincere person show some interest in you? This is what it means to be a living sign of the resurrected Christ. Make the love and mercy of Christ shine forth from your heart and your words.

Some of the new Canadian women have very limited opportunities to learn to speak English. You help in a group of women that uses the Bible as a means of learning to read and write English. This is not only an excellent way to learn about our faith but a safe way to help these women learn the English language.



Apply the resurrection to your daily life

Is not your service here a sign that Jesus Christ has risen among us?

Our Christian faith was never meant to be something that we get (i.e., I get the sacraments done for my kids) but rather it is a lived sharing in the very life and mission of Jesus Christ. We the people must become the living face of Jesus alive among us today. On this Easter Sunday spend a few moments on what it means to live the resurrection of Jesus.

Pray at the empty tomb

When Mary Magdelene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women came to anoint the body of Jesus they encountered the two men who explained what had happened: What kind of surprise would you have

encountered if you were in the shoes of these women?

Holy Spirit,

give us eyes to witness that the tomb is empty, ears to hear the message of these two men and

memory to know how Jesus had prepared us for his death.

Now, bring what I see with my eyes to a living faith in your resurrection. Lift my dropping spirit to see how your are alive among us.