

# EASTER 2014

6TH  
SUNDAY OF  
EASTER  
MAY 24,  
2014



## THE CHURCH LEARNS TO BE AN EASTER PEOPLE

**No one should ever come to the parish church only to get things done (like getting a baby done or getting a funeral done). The first reason for the Church is to become a Christian, a living disciple of Jesus Christ.**

If you are over fifty-five and want to learn more about computer programs, do not talk to your co-worker who is very skilled in computer knowledge. They have worked hard in learning and know a lot about computer programs but they are too impatient. They do not understand how hard it actually is for you to learn the in and outs of these new, complicated programs.

Call you eight year old grandchild. Get them to teach you! They are not inhibited by how slow you are. There will be a lot of interaction with the child but they will teach you a lot of computer knowledge.

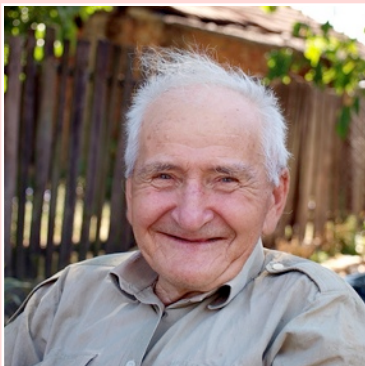
The Easter season must be the 'learners' (the people who have already been joined to the Church) teaching the newly baptized. We are all in this together.

The fifty days of Easter are a gift to everyone to deepen their sharing in Jesus Christ. No one could ever 'get' baptized. We are only marked to live the life of the baptized. As we grow in our faith (as we share more and more in the very life of Jesus) we are being baptized into Christ. This is the journey of a lifetime. It will only when we die and see God face-to-face that we will be able to say 'now we are baptized!'

Apply each of the Scriptures readings this Sunday to your own life and the life of your parish community.

What new insights is the Holy Spirit giving to the baptized in your parish?

# EASTER IN US



One wise teacher added: Don't ever teach beyond your practice!

Church: do not teach what you do not do yourself!  
Helping the newly baptized to grow will develop and strengthen your faith life. What helps to faith do the people in the above pictures need? What help does your life of faith need?

## *THE FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER DEEPEN CHRIST WITHIN US*

Always think of the Christian life as a verb and not a noun. What this means is that it is in our actions and not in our words (often too chatty!!) that counts.

Your parents were probably more verb than noun. They did not explain things too often. When they wanted something done they just motioned, and at times spoke in a rather loud voice when we were in a lazy stance, what needed to be done. There was more communication in their faces than in their words. How many memories do you have of your own parents: actions count and get this done now!

Our faith is not in the wonderful ceremonies of doing our babies but it is located in the living with Jesus Christ on a daily basis.

All the readings of the Sundays of Easter are directed towards deepening the faith life of the newly baptized. They were joined to Jesus Christ through the waters of baptism and now we are sharing with them the very Word of God so that their life is filled more and more with the energy and the teachings of Jesus. This is directed towards maturing their faith. This is an ongoing journey that takes energy to sustain it. It takes work, prayer and sharing, to actually be baptized.

Now we all know that when you teach the faith you also grow and are challenged in your faith life. The teacher always learns more than the student! The entire parish community is challenged to live and grow in its faith. This is never a one way street. As the Church calls the newly baptized to conversion and a deepening of their faith; the newly baptized called the people of the Church to grow in their faith.



May he be risen in your good deeds



newly baptized called the people of the Church to grow in their faith.

This Sunday take the command of Jesus to heart. He clearly directs the people of the Church: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (Jn. 14, 15) The following of Jesus is no empty action. It takes place as we actively try to live the teaching of the Gospel.

To be a Christian leads us to putting into practice the great values that Jesus has taught us. This is a life of daily prayer where we listen and share the very heart of Jesus Christ. It means that we are in dialogue with the Word of God. It leads us to a compassionate life of concern for our fellow human being.

Rather than be narrow and centered on self, our life of faith leads us into the world where the poor live with their many faces.

**"Jesus loves us so much that, even after his death, resurrection, and ascension, he remains with us. He is, after all, Emanuel, 'God with us,' but now through his living, sanctifying Spirit. We now encounter him in new ways: in other human beings; in any place where people gather in his name; in the inspired words of Holy Scripture; in his Church, particularly her liturgical celebrations; in the person of his minister; and especially in the sacraments."**

U.S. Bishops, *The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family* (1975)

## EASTER IN US



**Be Christ to all you meet today**

It happens only when you use it.

You were never born with a brain. Your brain developed as you used it! Every baby must explore, pull things apart and play at many things for their brain to develop.

# PRAYERS FOR THE EASTER SEASON

## Jesus Speaks

Do not be afraid  
I have shown you  
how to live

I have shown you  
how to pray  
I have shown you  
how to care  
for your brothers  
and sisters

why do you worry?  
didn't I tell you  
time and time again  
you have a Father  
who cares for you

who understands you  
he knows all about  
you  
he even has the hairs  
of your head numbered—  
counted



**Holy Spirit,**  
**may we always**  
**teach the new**  
**Christian out of**  
**our own practice,**  
**out of our life**  
**of prayer,**  
**our life of**  
**peace and healing**  
**and our life of**  
**service to the**  
**poor.**

## THE GOSPEL SPEAKS TO US

*(John, Chapter 14, Verses 15-21)*

*And whoever loves me will be loved  
by my Father, and I will love him and  
reveal myself to him.*

Jesus,  
We reason and probe and wonder  
about suffering and death,  
the resurrection;

how you gave away your life,  
how you invite us to also;  
and how all people  
in all times  
hear  
God  
speak to them.

And you say to us,  
Love me  
and I will love you

## MAKE THE WORDS OF THE RISEN CHRIST YOUR OWN THIS SUNDAY

“If you love me, you will  
keep my commandments.”  
Jn. 14, 15  
“I will not leave you  
orphaned; I am coming to  
you.: Jn. 14, 18

“On that day you will know  
that I am in my Father and  
you in me, and I in you”  
Jn. 14, 20