



CHRIST
IS
alive
in everything

St. Pius V
COMMUNITY EASTER REFLECTIONS

APRIL 17-23, 2022



Easter Sunday April 17, 2022
Walt Mutschler

We are a blessed people who have the Scriptures and the Church to share with us the truth of the Resurrection. If we have not thanked God for these things today, let us do so now. We have so much to be grateful for. Jesus conquered death, proving beyond doubt he was who he said he was. Think about that. God became human, suffered at the hands of his own creations, and was killed after experiencing great suffering, all so He could show us how much He loves us. Jesus' resurrection means everything He promised us will come true. When we die, we don't just rest in the ground and enter oblivion. We enter a new reality of existence with Christ in the kingdom of heaven. Paradise is offered to us, even though we are imperfect and it was our sin that put Jesus on the cross to die. One day our bodies will rise and join our souls and we will be perfected. Let us not forget what this Sunday means as we celebrate with family, fine food, and egg hunts. If we faithfully follow Christ with our whole hearts, if we listen to him, if we love Him and our human family as he asked us to do, then death has no power over us. What a gift!

Monday, April 18, 2022
Kevin Wells

In today's first reading, Peter refers to Psalm 16 when he says "...my body will live on in hope, for you will not abandon my soul to the nether world." He tells the people that this proclaimed beforehand the resurrection of the Messiah. Peter went on to say, "We are the witnesses... This is what you now see and hear." I imagine that some of Jesus' followers may have felt abandoned when Jesus was crucified and laid in the tomb. Hope may have vanished. In today's Gospel reading, the women who went to the tomb on the third day may have lost hope, felt abandoned. Yet they had the courage to journey to the tomb. Jesus appeared to them, they realized that they had not been abandoned, and their hope was restored. "Peace," Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid."



During this Easter Season, let us live in hope and look for ways in which God lets us know that we have not, nor will we ever be abandoned. Let us also be aware of those who are losing hope and "carry the good news to them" through our words and our deeds.

Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Sr. Fran Ferder by way of Sr. Paulette Weindell

How often do we miss the revelation of the holy because ordinariness gets in the way? Our expectations prevent us from seeing what is right before our eyes. A death is literally the end. Grief looms so large that it trumps any hope of future joy. A gardener is just a gardener. What we see immediately before us is all we see...It is possible to live our entire spiritual lives in limbo—

hanging in suspense between the sorrow we know and the risen life we can't possibly imagine. That is how it is for Mary of Magdala in the immediate aftermath of the immense torrent that washed over her heart. Do you recognize it?

Eventually, she hears her name. "Mary!" A simple acknowledgment of her presence, recognition that she was there was enough. He says her name. In naming Mary, he names every woman who has been left out, made anonymous, ignored. Then a most incredible thing happens: He tells her to "go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" He commissions her, a woman, to be the first to announce the resurrection. In a remarkable twist of patriarchal protocol, she, a woman, will proclaim to men. In a narrative that conveys Mary of Magdala's importance in the early Christian community, she carries her new found Easter faith to the disciples. "I have seen the Lord," she says simply. Though attempts will be made through the ages to blunt her voice, to forget her name, and to discredit her person, her story is recorded, and Christians of all ages hear it and come to a greater trust of their own.



Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Ruth Ehresman

Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give to you..."

The tremendous tragedy of the last days of Jesus always breaks my heart. After sharing a meal with his friends, he was left alone to face what had to be fear of his coming death; he was betrayed by friends -both Judas and Peter; and suffered ridicule, torment, and physical pain. But that wasn't the end of him.

I can't really say I understand the resurrection, but I understand that Jesus' spirit continued to touch and strengthen his disciples after his death. And I understand that the incarnation not only meant that God was man in Jesus, but that God is a real presence in each of us.

Three weeks ago, my dear friend, Rich Patton, died. His life was, indeed, "rich." He was smart, kind, hilarious, and completely dedicated to improving the lives of children who suffer because of racial and economic disparities. He "en-riched" the lives of so many by inspiring us, respecting us, caring for us, prodding us, and sometimes dogging us. The world is a "richer" place because he was in it.

Each of us is called to speak the same words as Peter: "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I have I give to you..." It may not be our gift to heal people from illness or injury. But we can comfort with a smile, affirm by showing respect, feed the hungry, speak out against racism and inequity. These are our gifts and our responsibility to one another. We are the hands and feet of Christ. What are you called to give?



Resurrection

Bursts of Divine glory,
Resplendent grandeur,
Exquisite brilliance,
Impeccable peace.

The evolving universe
vibrates with God's life.

The stone rolls away,
Risen One appears
transformed through echoes
of quantum light.

Pulsing love
wrapped in Resurrection grace
envelopes Garden stillness -
creating heaven on earth.

The Risen One speaks:
Be bold my beloved,
Shout the Good News,
Sing *fortissimo*,

ALLELUIA!

Sr. Jacqueline Motzel, FSM
Thursday, April 21, 2022

Friday, April 22, 2022

Deb Torres

Breakfast on the Beach

This is a day in which I very intentionally spend time with nature as we celebrate Earth Day. What a wonderful Gospel reading where the disciples have breakfast on the beach with Jesus. What a great way to begin this day!

I often wonder how the time would go if I were there. I have not experienced much of luxury in my life, so I am more comfortable in casual settings. I imagine sitting on a log, eating bread and fish from the fire, being in the presence of Jesus, having serendipitous conversation.

And there are others. Who are they? With whom would I want to share this experience? I would be delighted if we were what I consider to be a motley crew. There would be someone like me from every walk of my life. Like me in that I am different than most. I have been made in the eyes of Jesus to be unique, often times the outsider. My motley crew would be friends who are of various skin colors and gender descriptions, buddies who have varying anomalies affecting their minds and bodies, colleagues who have traveled from far-away places under austere conditions, soul mates who meet Jesus in their own special way, associates who are humble about their life's circumstances, pals who love life no matter what it brings them. Together we would be one with Jesus and enjoy the best breakfast ever!

How would you see your breakfast with Jesus?



Saturday, April 23, 2022

Tom Sanger

Today's readings challenge me to consider how often fear has gripped my own heart and prevented me from spreading the Good News of how Jesus has touched into my own life, strengthened me, and guided me through the troubled waters of life.

Immediately after the Resurrection, the scenes from the Gospel show the apostles and disciples struggling in their belief because they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. In the first reading we see a changed Peter and John. Pentecost has happened and now they are filled with boldness and the leaders, scribes and elders are amazed at the works they are performing in the name of Jesus. They are ordered to stop speaking about Jesus and their response, "It is impossible for us not to speak about what we have seen and heard."

I do not know about you, but I know that I do not want fear to rule my life or have a stranglehold on me, keeping me from following Jesus or speaking up for the Common Good! In this Easter Season, I invite you, along with me, to ask for the grace of God's Spirit to touch more deeply into our lives and help us to be bold in our words and actions for what is right and just. Perfect Love casts out fear, and we all know how much our troubled world needs Love, a "Bold Love" in these times.

