

**WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE!
ALLELUIA IS OUR CRY!**

*Third Sunday of
Easter*

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

April 19, 2015



REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Why think about sins and forgiveness during **Easter time**? **Easter** is a joyful time to celebrate new Life! It is thus surprising that **repentance and forgiveness** figure so prominently in all three of today's readings. The readings suggest to us that



we, unlike the disciples to whom Jesus appeared after the resurrection, cannot look at, touch, see with our own eyes this Jesus who was dead and now is risen to new Life. Yet Jesus gives us another, just as concrete, means to come to belief in the new Life of resurrection. **Repentance and forgiveness** are themselves encounters with the risen Jesus, an invitation to deeper belief and an experience of our own coming to a share in Jesus' risen Life.

Our **repentance**—conversion of life—turns us to the God who forgives and who fills us with the new Life of the resurrection. Ultimately, this risen Life within us empowers a way of living that witnesses to God's forgiveness of our sinfulness. Our belief in the resurrection cannot be passive.

Forgiveness is central to embracing Jesus' risen Life; being forgiven by God means that our relationship with him is restored while our forgiveness of others frees us to live with compassion and joy. **These are virtues of risen Life.**

Words to reflect upon:

CONVERSION OF LIFE, VIRTUES OF RISEN LIFE

**This is risen Life: You are forgiven!
This is our witness to the resurrection:
"I forgive you".**

LIVING OUR EASTER LIFE

"We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our cry"

— St. Augustine

We have good reason to let our hearts soar in praise, to see things anew, to be caught up in the joy of God—"for the Lord is truly risen"—not just at the altar, but in our lives. Alleluia!

We are an Easter people because God in Christ has invited us into the life which will never end—and he's done it right here and now. As the

Exultet, that great **Easter shout of praise**, says—earth is united with heaven—in this **Easter life**. It is a life with different values, higher ideals than perhaps we have ever dreamed we are capable of living. This is the **Easter life of grace and peace.**

The liturgies of **Easter** declare this praise again and again. And as the church-domestic we continue the song of praise in our hearts, in our homes, in our lives. We don't have to understand this mysterious invitation to new life—that's not what we do very often with life—understand it. The only thing to do with it is to get on with living and enjoying it! **An Easter people have life abundant. As we practice resurrection may alleluia be our song. May we proclaim it loud and long.**



Lord, bless us this Easter time;

Bless us with faith, guard us in doubt;

Bless us with hope, uplift us in despair;

Bless us with love, keep us from harm;

Bless us with peace, calm us in trouble;

Bless us with mercy, help us forgive;

Bless us with joy, comfort us in sorrow

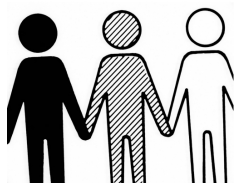
So our heart may rejoice in You, the Risen Lord.

Amen

Examining Our Social Sins

Lent was a time dedicated to evaluation and reflection, conversion and return to God. Now, in the **Easter Season**, we might profitably consider our readiness, our availability for the evangelical challenge to confront our own complicity in the structures that permit and perpetuate the particular sins we see on the news and witness in our communities.

One such example of a sinful social structure we live with is **Racism**. The recent deaths of Naeschylus Vinzant, Tony Robinson and 12-year-old Tamir Rice at the hands of police officers have thrown the U.S. into a heated discussion about the treatment of men and women of color, especially by law enforcement. While the tragedies of lives ended prematurely are always particular and uniquely painful, the persistent injustice of the racism that provides the condition for gross inequality is all too common. Part of what permits its continuation is the unacknowledged white privilege and supremacy in the U.S.



As **Easter people** we must ask ourselves how we choose to view the world and whether we intentionally or inadvertently overlook how things really are. Those of us who are white (especially white men like me, who are beneficiaries of gender privilege too) need to recognize the unfair privileges from which we benefit in the U.S. The benefits are often masked over by omission, by the lack of negative or oppressive experiences, by the absence of the skeptical gaze or the dismissive posture or the guilty-by-color association, by never having been targeted or judged because of the color of our skin. Others do not have these privileges. Racism cannot be addressed until those of us who benefit from it, knowingly and unwittingly alike, acknowledge our privilege and own our responsibility to work toward surrendering it.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,

1 Timothy 2:1

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY FOR THE CHRONICALLY ILL:

Prayer please Fr. Vega, Albert and Jerry Vega, Sylvia Tasner, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito. **Let us continue to join our hearts this week in prayer for our Christian brothers and sisters who still face violence and death daily in the Middle East for their faith.**

Easter Meditation

The Resurrection Story is not a fairy tale, not even a well-intentioned invention directed to lead the ignorant to “follow the rules” and gain heaven. It is true! It is the Good News! The proof of the story is all around us. Ultimately, the risen Christ is known today in the goodness that surrounds us, the hope that encourages us, and the love that strengthens us. Resurrection is experienced in so many life-giving ways. The reality of the resurrection is known in the joy of new life. **This resurrection is real!**

This Jesus is alive!

This is no ghost!

Alleluia!



The World of the Active Verb

by Ron Dufresne

I am struck by the active, ongoing nature of the Ignatian value of becoming men and women for others.

This is the world of the active verb, of the “-ing.” Nothing here is static; everything is evolving and ongoing. We should think of becoming or developing men and women for others as an active process, an ongoing endeavor; not simply an end state. We are human **beings**, constantly **becoming**, **serving**, **loving**, and **humbling** ourselves.

This is not an all-or-nothing proposition. Instead, it is something we are all growing into, more today than yesterday. We need to waken, day by day, and serve more today than we did yesterday, love more today than we did yesterday, become more humble today than we were yesterday. Through this struggle, we grow closer to who we want to become and we grow closer to those around us.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



Gospel Luke 24:35-48

Do you reach for God in our midst or God far away? Jesus said, “Touch me and see.” Does it help you that Jesus has experienced trials like yours? Did God take our flesh because he needed to, or because we needed him to?

Spiritual Student

We have been in love with God
For so very, very long.

— Hafiz