

HE LIVES!

third sunday of Easter



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

April 10, 2016

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

Today's Gospel details the transformation made possible by the Risen Christ. Disciples net a great number of fish after a catch-less night. Peter jumps impetuously into the sea instead of staying in the boat.



Peter thrice declares his love after he is fortified by the gift of breakfast bread and fish, but even more so by the gift of encounter with the risen Christ.

The Resurrection transforms the way things are. The risen Christ transforms the way we are, enabling us to obey his ongoing invitation, "follow me". We are fortified by Jesus' risen Presence, by his invitation to follow, by his own love for us that transforms our love into faithfulness and fruitfulness. Risen Life fortifies us for the transformation needed on our discipleship journey of seeing, believing. Risen Life is given to us by Christ, but we must also seek it. Risen Life is a gift, but we must also grasp it.

Words to reflect upon: Resurrection transforms the way things are...

May the light of the Resurrected Christ illuminate all our being and renew in our hearts the power of faith, love and hope.

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE

First Reading Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

The apostles rejoiced that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor. When you encounter suffering in your life is there anything that helps you accept it? What would make a person "embrace" suffering? Do you know anyone who suffers but also exudes a kind of spiritual joy?



LIVING OUR EASTER LIFE

One of the Easter Gifts proclaimed during this Easter Season is **the Gift Of The Holy Spirit, The Very Power of God**. The Evangelist Mark tells us that at the moment of his death, Jesus "released the spirit". It is a way of saying that he breathed his last breath and died. But it also declares **that the life, sufferings and death of Jesus, when properly understood, released a power into the world, the power of the Spirit of God, a Spirit with which Jesus himself was filled. Jesus' followers would soon become filled with that Spirit also...as have we!** By virtue of our Baptism, as having been reborn in Christ and taken on his Life, we too have received the Easter gift of The Very Power of God, Lady Wisdom, Holy Spirit...just think about it... **Rise up, People of God, the world needs us! BELIEVE!**



Easter Meditation

God never overpowers, never twists arms, never pushes your face into something so as to take away your freedom. God respects our freedom and is never a coercive force. And nowhere is this more true than in what is revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. The Gospels assure us that, like his birth, the resurrection was physical, real, not just some alteration inside the consciousness of believers. After the resurrection, we are assured, Jesus' tomb was empty, people could touch him, he ate food with them, he was not a ghost.



CHRIST IS RISEN, though we might not see him! We don't always notice spring either. The miraculous doesn't force itself on us. It's there, there to be seen, but whether we see or not, and what precisely we do see, depends mainly upon what's going on inside our own hearts. What about your heart?

If it's fishing that lifts up your hearts, then fishing is your prayer.

MERCY-ING

Some suggestions for keeping to mercy during this Holy Year of Mercy:

- **Visit the graves** of your ancestors, or visit a local cemetery and walk around praying a rosary for all the souls buried there.
- **Go On Retreat.** It's a way to be merciful to yourself and also to the people around you, who know you need to go on a retreat. If you cannot do that, at least try to make a day or evening of recollection.
- **Admit your jealousy**, both to yourself and your confessor

Merciful like the Father

Everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Be kinder than necessary!

Clothe yourself with mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bless always & everywhere.

GOD BLESS YOU!

"Those who had been his companions were mourning and weeping... He said to them, 'Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature' " Mk 16:15



"Since there is no more time, and you and I may not pass this way again, I will ask the Spirit to touch your hearts and teach you all these marvelous things: how to live in the Present Moment, how to be at peace when distress is assailing you, how to love when you don't feel loved, how to commune with God in the depths of your soul, and how to bear those beautiful gifts of the Spirit, always.

I love you, and God loves you more than you know."

Mother Mary Angelica of the Annunciation, 1923 - 2016

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:

Fr. Vega, Albert and Jerry Vega, Sylvia Tasner, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Don and **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito. **Let us**



pray together this week for the grace to "find what is above": compassion, gentleness, kindness, humility and patience. **Let us put on love, forgive one another, bear with one another. Let peace dwell in our hearts**

THE RISEN CHRIST AND DAILY LIFE

The Resurrection of Christ is the center of our faith, our spiritual center. Throughout our lives, we return to that theme — the story of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus... but what does it all really mean to us 21st century Christians? In the Easter Season bulletins, we will be reflecting with James Martin S.J. on some of the ways we could begin to answer this question.

First: You don't need to look for your crosses. Life gives them to you. Some young people tell me, sincerely, that they feel that they do not have enough suffering in their lives. It is tempting to say darkly, "Just wait!" Whether it is a catastrophic illness, an accident, a death in your family, a fractured relationship, financial worries, long-term loneliness, trouble in school or struggles on the job, problems will come. And the real cross is the one that you don't want—otherwise it is hardly a cross. Remember that Jesus did not court death, nor did he beg for the cross in the Garden of Gethsemane. The cross eventually came to him. And, of course, the cross is not the result of sin. It is true that some suffering is the result of bad or immoral decisions. But most suffering is not. Even the sinless one suffered.

Christ is crucified again today wherever hatred, violence and injustice prevail.

HAFIZ

Poetry is a national art in Persia, somewhat like opera in Italy. Even in modern Iran, people at every social level know the great poets, argue passionately about their favorites and quote them constantly in everyday conversation. Hafiz (1320-1389) is Persia's most beloved poet, his verses classics in the literature of Sufism and mystical verse. His works explode with infinite tenderness and compassion, great exuberance, joy and laughter, ecstatic love and fervent longing for his Beloved (God), and with wonder and delight at the divine splendor of the universe. His poems are meant to be recited, sung, even happily shouted—if it won't disturb the neighbors too much! We will be presenting some of Hafiz' poems in future bulletins during the **Easter Season** in the hope that they may inspire us to pass on the great gift of Joy that Hafiz so often describes—to ourselves and to others.

God's Laughter

Hafiz tells us that the Beloved's nature is pure Joy. The closer we come to Him, the more we are able to hear and feel God's Laughter. The rhythm of His Laughter is the music of the dance of life. That music is the essence of Love, and it is the radiant core of every song of Hafiz.

"I am happy even before I have a reason."