



SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2015

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

Tell a tale of new life!

If you've ever had the experience of coming face to face with death and have come out alive, if you have ever been given a second chance to undo past mistakes because someone you hurt has forgiven you, if you have been given a new lease on life after a physical, emotional, or spiritual trauma, "Then you have experienced Resurrection," said Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago. Exultant as such a moment is, it is only a taste of Resurrection. Can you share a personal Resurrection story today? How were you "left for dead" but raised up by the hand of God? Then bear witness. Tell someone your own new life story today!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7 (42, 41) or at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35 (46). "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."*

MONDAY, APRIL 6 EASTER MONDAY

Truth prevails

Everyone knows that one of the ways you determine the truth in a court of law is through the testimony of witnesses. Hopefully, you never have to go through the ordeal of being that kind of witness. But you are called to the joy of being a witness to Christ. The sacraments give you the grace to be a disciple—a word that means "follower," a follower of a way, the way of truth. Jesus is that way and truth and life. Live your testimony. Let it be evidence of God in the world.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "God raised this Jesus; of this we are all witnesses."*

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 EASTER TUESDAY

Proclaim the word!

Did you know that the 12 apostles aren't the only apostles? In the Catholic tradition, we have honored others with this title because they embody the fundamental spirit of being sent forth on mission. In his teaching on the apostles at a general audience (February 14, 2007), Pope Benedict XVI recalled that as early as Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century, Mary Magdalene was known as the "Apostle to the Apostles" for being "the first to announce to the apostles the words of life." Let us go do likewise and proclaim the words of life!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). "Mary went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord!'"*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 EASTER WEDNESDAY

Flesh and blood

Catholics believe in the doctrine of *transubstantiation*—that is, that bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. The conversion is not merely symbolic, but actual, through the power of God. And not just Body and Blood, but the risen Christ as a whole is present in the sacrament. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The principal fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus." Don't forget that the living Lord is always mysteriously in your midst.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). "... he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."*

THURSDAY, APRIL 9 EASTER THURSDAY

It all begins at Baptism

At an Easter Vigil, the bishop preached a stirring homily on the waters of life, the waters of Baptism. The entire congregation was panting, eager to feel just a drop of that cool, life-giving water after renewing our baptismal vows. Unfortunately, one of the priests (the sprinkling was shared by several priests) was so frail that hardly a drop ever left the sprinkler he was ineffectively waving. A lesson in deferred gratification for some in the assembly, but also a reminder that everything in the life of the Spirit comes to us because we are baptized into the body of Christ. On what date were you baptized? How about celebrating with a corporal act of charity?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). "Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures."*

FRIDAY, APRIL 10 EASTER FRIDAY

Mystified? Let it all sink in

So much happens during Lent and Holy Week. The Easter season is a time to let it all sink in. Newly baptized Catholics partake in a process with the imposing name of *mystagogia*, coming from Greek words meaning "to initiate into the sacred rites." The ancient custom was for experienced Catholics to spend the first week of Easter with the newly baptized, helping them absorb the mysteries they had accepted in their Baptism, Confirmation, and first Eucharist. But we "old Catholics" are called to participate in the process right alongside the new ones. Take some time today to marvel at all that you have seen, heard, witnessed, and experienced these past weeks.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). "Let Christians offer praises to the paschal victim... The lamb has redeemed the sheep."*

SATURDAY, APRIL 11 EASTER SATURDAY

A gem of a sacrament

The sacraments of initiation are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. Sometimes at the Easter Vigil, adult candidates receive all three in such a liturgical tsunami that the sacraments seem to happily blend into one another. This is even more striking in the Eastern rites, where Christian initiation for infants begins with Baptism followed immediately by Confirmation and the Eucharist! The Latin rite separates the three by periods of intense preparation, usually from early infancy to adolescence to adulthood. Both Eastern and Latin rites reveal these sacraments as multiple facets of a single precious gem.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). "When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe."*



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

©2015 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Patrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.