



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday of Easter (B)
April 14, 2024

What Will It Take?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

What will it take for the early followers of Jesus to recognize him in their midst? Today's Gospel recounts yet another episode of confusion and unbelief. They had an extraordinary experience that startled and terrified them. Even though other disciples reported having come upon the risen Lord, they didn't realize that it was also he they were encountering. Such an unusual experience might have left them doubtful about the Lord's presence, but the reports of others should have thrown light on the reality of their own experiences. Are they like Thomas,

who was unwilling to take the word of others but demanded his own tangible experience of the risen Lord?

However, every account of the risen Lord's appearance reports that his identity is initially hidden. They only knew that it was him when he revealed himself. Mary recognized him when he called her name (John 20:16); the couple in Emmaus knew him in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:31); even Paul on the road to Damascus only understood who the Lord was when he revealed his name (Acts 9:3).

And what about us? What will it take for us to recognize the risen Lord in our midst? Do we also need concrete evidence? Will it only happen if we have a meal with him? But isn't that exactly what the Eucharist is—a meal with the risen Lord? †

Sunday Readings

Acts 3:13–15, 17–19

The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from death; of this we are witnesses.

1 John 2:1–5a

Whoever says, "I know him," but does not obey his commandments, is a liar."

Luke 24:35–48

[Jesus] asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them.



What will it take for us to recognize the risen Lord in our midst?

A Word from Pope Francis

Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with him, with the Risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by him and, transformed by his Love, we look at, touch, and nourish others as brothers and sisters.

REGINA CAELI, ROME, APRIL 18, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do you look for the presence of Christ in the faces of those you encounter every day?
- Is there anyone you refuse to see as a brother or sister in Christ? Why?

Our Enemies Have Families, Too

Rev. Paul Turner

At times war seems to be the only course of action. At other times, though, it seems as though different solutions could have been found. Americans disagree about our wars, which is good. It shows that we think critically about violence. One motto that most Americans rally around is “Support Our Troops.” Even if you don’t agree with the point of the war, you support the troops who fight it. Pope St. John Paul II, weighing the question of winners and losers in battle, said, “War is always a defeat for humanity.”

Other nations also have troops. Those troops also have families. The deaths of combatants and innocents cause tremendous grief in the lives of people, no matter whose side they are on.



The watershed event for ancient Israel was its exodus from Egypt through the waters of the Red Sea. The Chosen People crossed many miles of desert before entering the Promised Land. They left

behind their enemy, submerged in the sea that had opened for Israel’s escape and closed to defeat the foe.

Pharaoh’s army—they were someone’s children, too.

At Easter we reflect upon the exodus because it foreshadows baptism. Through the waters of rebirth, we put sin behind and are purified for life in the new Promised Land. In the case of baptism, our enemy is the devil. The resurrection overcame the power of evil, and everyone can agree that it was worth the battle. †

From *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter* by Rev. Paul Turner, available at Liguori.org

Daybreaks authors include Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Sr. Dianne Bergant, and Fr. Daniel Horan

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “How to Read the Resurrection Narratives” by Raymond E. Brown, SS

Our four Gospels, written twenty-five to sixty-five years after the resurrection, say what happened in ways so different that the Church wisely doesn’t combine them all into one picture or prefer one Gospel account over the other. Each Gospel narrative should be allowed to contribute its own wealth to what we know and believe about Christ. What can we learn from the fact that the Gospel accounts of the resurrection differ from each other? The answer is centered in the risen Jesus as God’s ultimate revelation directed to all times and places. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever, but the world changes. The Church of our century cannot present a different Christ. But by the way it preserves the varied Gospel messages, it lets Jesus speak to the differing needs of the audiences of our times. †

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Lord Jesus, help us to recognize you in the faces of those we encounter in our daily lives, even those who are difficult for us to love, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

April 15–20

Monday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 6:8–15 / Jn 6:22–29

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 7:51—8:1a / Jn 6:30–35

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:1b–8 / Jn 6:35–40

Thursday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 8:26–40 / Jn 6:44–51

Friday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:1–20 / Jn 6:52–59

Saturday, Easter Weekday:
Acts 9:31–42 / Jn 6:60–69

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