

April 7 & 8, 2012

Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday (B)

Do you believe in the Resurrection of Jesus?
How does your believing affect you?

1. The News of the Resurrection

- 1) We have just heard the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus!
- 2) Now we have God's Word for it. We have the witness of those who found the empty tomb and had Jesus appear to them, and then to the rest of the Apostles.
- 3) Their experience of seeing the Risen Lord changed everything!
- 4) It brought the followers of Jesus out of their despair and desolation after the Crucifixion. It brought them together into a new community filled with enthusiasm and love.
- 5) They were the beginning of the Church. After being strengthened by the Holy Spirit, they commenced with great zeal to preach the good news of the Resurrection to the world.
- 6) Their living testimony has come down through all the centuries to us.
- 7) Moreover, the Risen Lord is present with us now. He makes himself present in the Mass, speaking to us in his Word of Scripture, and offering himself for us in the Eucharistic Prayer.
- 8) He gives witness of his presence in our lives and in the other members of the Church. The Church has endured because it is the living witness of the Resurrection of Jesus. The Church is the Body of Christ in whom Christ lives, joined together as the branches of the Vine that is Christ!
- 9) We can believe for ourselves. Christ is risen!

2. The Women

- 1) It was the faithful women like Mary Magdalene, Joanna and others, who were the first to discover that the Lord had risen and have him appear to them, and then bore witness to this.
- 2) On different occasions, Jesus brought forgiven sinners close to him and had them do things for him. On Easter Sunday morning, Jesus sent Mary Magdalene to tell the apostles of his Resurrection.
- 2) We owe so much to the steadfast faith and devotion of the women of the Church, to our Blessed Mother Mary and the other women who followed Christ in the beginning.
- 3) Women ever since have given solid witness to the reality of Christ in our lives.
- 4) They have shown their leadership and promoted all that is good for us.
- 5) Our mothers taught us our Faith and prayers, and saw that we went to the sacraments. My mother explained the Faith to me, but I was also impressed by the way my father lived it.

3. Our Lives Are Changed

- 1) Jesus has risen! Our lives are changed! The world has been changed! The new creation has begun!
- 2) The light of the Risen Christ has come into a broken world.
- 3) Like the women and the Apostles and the first Christians, now we with the billion Catholics and the hundreds of millions of other Christians, show the love and power of the risen Jesus at work in us.
- 4) Jesus has made new persons of us, and the renewal and recreation of the world goes on through us and cannot be overcome!

4. Sunday

- 1) The new creation of the world is signified by Sunday, the Lord's Day.
- 2) Jesus rose from the tomb in the early hours of the darkness of Sunday.
- 3) Sunday marks the day of the beginning of the new creation in the new Adam, Jesus, who transforms the human race.
- 4) Before the Resurrection of Jesus, the day of worship for the Jews was the Sabbath, Saturday. For the Romans, Sunday was like any other day of the week.

- 5) Then the Apostles established Sunday as the Lord's Day, marking and celebrating his Resurrection.
- 6) Ever since, Christians and Christian countries around the world observe Sunday as a special day even if many do not realize its significance.
- 7) Sunday itself is a witness, a proof of the Resurrection.

5. Our Baptismal Promises

- 1) We are coming to the Renewal of our Baptismal Promises in this liturgy.
- 2) It is through our Baptism that we have entered into the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and become new persons, with the way open to live eternally with Jesus.
- 3) Through our Baptism, the power of Jesus' Death and Resurrection has entered into us:
 - now we can die to sin in the power of his Death!
 - now we can live in the power of his Resurrection, the power of the Holy Spirit!
- 4) Through our Baptism, we have been made sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ!
- 5) Jesus has poured his Spirit into our hearts, giving us his light and power and love, so that he can live in us, work in us, and work through us for the people in our lives and for the people of our parish and community.

We should remember this every day and through the day!
- 6) By our Baptism, Jesus calls us to work with others in our parish and in society for a world of social justice and social love:
 - a world where all people share fairly in the goods of the earth and the life of society;
 - a world where all people, all groups, are treated with the respect and love and care owed to their human dignity
- 7) In our Baptism, Jesus has promised himself to us, to never stop loving us, even if we forget him, or turn away from him.
- 8) In our Renewal of our Baptismal Promises now, let us promise ourselves to Jesus and pledge to be faithful to him, to grow in love for him and our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- 9) Let us respond "I do!" with faith and conviction, to the questions of rejecting sin, and living our faith in the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and the Church.

Our Mass

It is the power of our Baptism that makes us able to now offer ourselves with Jesus in this Mass. Jesus takes us into his offering to receive the power of his Death and Resurrection for our lives, that he may live in us and that we may be a sign of his Resurrection for our world, that in him we conquer all evil and death itself!

TO THE USERS OF HOMILY NOTES:

1. It would be helpful to the writers of the Homily Notes to know how useful the Notes are in aiding you to preach applications of the Sunday Scripture Readings to the Church's Social Doctrine.
2. Do you have any suggestions as to how we can make these Notes more useful to you?
The Sunday homily is the primary way we can impart the Church's Social Doctrine to our people.
3. Send your response to : Rev. Lloyd Cummings, at lcum@rideau.net