

EASTER SUNDAY

March 23, 2008

Do you believe in the Resurrection of Jesus?

If so, how does it affect you?

1. The News of the Resurrection

- 1) We have just heard the proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus!
- 2) We have God's Word for it. We have the witness of those who found the empty tomb and had Jesus appear to them a little later, 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 your lives and in the other members of the Church.
- 9) We can believe for ourselves. Christ is risen!

2. The Women

- 1) It was the faithful women like the two Marys, Joanna and Salome, who were the first to discover that the Lord had risen and have him appear to them, and then bore witness.
- 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 better than Dad, but I was deeply impressed by the way he 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, and we with the billion Catholics and the other hundreds of millions of other Christians, show the love and power of 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.

2) It is through our Baptism that we have entered into the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and become new persons.

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 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!

9) Let us respond "I do!" with faith and conviction, to the questions on rejecting sin, and living our faith in the Father, Son, Holy Spirit and the Church.