

THIS IS A JOYFUL DAY FOR ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

Our Lord's resurrection affirms his salvific act of love. We know that he came take on our sins to his cross to redeem all of mankind so that we could live in hope. But more than hope, we can know the joy of living a redeemed life, because our redeemer conquered even death with His resurrection.

Resurrections can be unsettling. I'm reminded of man who was taking a taxi to the airport. On the way he remembered a short cut that he wanted tell the taxi driver about. So he reach forward to tap him on the shoulder and suddenly the drive careened off the rode and drove the car into a ditch. When they got out of the taxi, the passenger apologized profusely for tapping the driver on the shoulder. He said I didn't mean to scare you like that. In your experiences, hasn't anyone ever tapped you to get your attention before? How long have you been driving a taxi? This is my first day driving a taxi, the driver replied. Really what did you do before that? For 28 years I drove a hearse for a mortuary.

So you never know about resurrections.

But we do know about Our Lord's resurrection because He has allowed us to participate in His saving mystery. Through the grace of our baptism, which is renewed in our hearts, we become aware of God's presence in our world and learn to turn to Him to him daily.

God's saving grace flows in our spiritual veins from the time of our baptism. The waters of baptism carry God's grace to all who avail themselves of it. It is always there for us, we just need to ask for it. The more we live in His grace, the more aware we are of our role as contributing members of God's community of believers. Sometimes we call this the Body of Christ.

We are called to make God's laws a part of our lifestyle. We might not be called to give up our lives (although it could happen) but to give up our lifestyle. Instead we are called to cling to Our Lord Jesus Who is always there to guide us and see that we do not become enslaved to our sins. Then we will know of our resurrection from spiritual death to fullness of life. In this way we can show the world that Jesus is alive today.

“Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know oh, oh, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.”

He lives today to calls us constantly to a deeper understanding of His goodness and to be willing to share that goodness that we have in our hearts to those that we are close to.

He wants our no's to turn to yes's. God always says yes even when we say no.

This indeed is a joyous day, when we take the time to reflect on God's goodness and how He wishes for us to share it with others. So tomorrow, some of us must return to our work. That might make some of us happy because we are familiar with what we have to do and have settled into comfortable lifestyle. Some of us might not be too happy about returning to work. Maybe we will have a rough week and lose some of the joy. Some will be ready to return to church by next Sunday looking for the joy that we will remember from today. Others might rely on other means to find the joy.

But for you who have felt the resurrection of your spirit said yes to God and found a way to work Jesus into your lifestyle, I will probably see you at 8 am Monday morning Mass tomorrow. Or maybe you will attend the 6:30 AM Mass at St John Neumann if you have to work early. Or maybe you are going to a 5:30 PM Mass at St John the Baptist Church in Costa Mesa.

For those of you who would truly like to experience the resurrection of your spirit I have an invitation for you.

Come to one of our parish renewals.

The men's is next weekend and the women' weekend is the weekend after that in two weeks. We invite you to give the Lord thirty hours of your time from 8 am Saturday until 2 pm Sunday. If you give the Lord just 30 hours, not much in the span of a lifetime, He will bless you with an abundance of grace and blessed assurance of a new resurrection of your spirit. You will learn how to share in God's promise to be with you until the end of time. Remember that God says Yes even when we say no. If you take a card that the renewal team is passing out, and register or call the phone number on the bottom, you will extend your Easter joy and better understand your personal resurrection.

YOU WILL BE ADDING YOUR YES TO GOD'S YES
AND GREAT THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN WHEN GOD MIXES WITH MAN.