

The Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Sunday), Year C.
Weekend of 03 and 04 April 2010

.=: REFLECTION QUESTIONS :-.

The Scriptures for this weekend are found here:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab/>

"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." What would they have thought had happened? How long do you think it took for them to realize that Jesus had truly risen from the dead?

"We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem." Luke speaks of being there and witnessing all Jesus did. How are we witnesses as well? How can our witness strengthen and encourage others on their journey of faith?

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God." What are the things from above that we are called to seek?

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." How is each Sunday another Easter? How can each day be that for us?

How are these Scriptures comforting? Challenging?

.=: SPIRITUAL REFLECTION :=.

What a glorious day! Tons of snow and ice have melted away. The grass is turning green and trees are beginning to bud. A bare Sanctuary is filled with the fragrance and beauty of flowers. The Church smells clean and fresh. The sound of water fills the Church. The smell of Sacred Chrism is in the air! The "A" word is sung again. The year has come full circle. We celebrate the most important thing we believe as Christian people. Jesus Christ is risen today!

It took the people of Jesus day some time to realize what "to rise from the dead" meant. On the first Easter they didn't receive baskets of eggs and jelly beans, eat chocolate rabbits or feast on Spring goodies. It was a day when at first their hopes were dashed. We can only imagine their confusion when Jesus body was missing. They may have imagined that it had been stolen. That would have been even another insult and indignity. Just when their

hearts had sunk to the lowest point, they were faced with another possibility. Could he have risen?

The joy of this day is a sure sign that this is exactly what happened. The faith that was enkindled in the hearts of so many has survived, been passed on and has grown over almost 2,000 years. This weekend thousands of people will be Baptized, Confirmed and welcomed into Full Communion with the Church all over the world.

Our Community welcomes them and the new energy and vitality they bring. It's the same Community that drew them in, that provided an opportunity to experience the Catholic Faith that nurtured their developing faith. So it's a celebration for all of us! It was impossible to crush the message Jesus came to live. It was impossible for sin and darkness to win out over goodness and light. It was impossible for death to conquer life. The message of Easter is a message of God's triumph over all those things.

So we light a new fire, we bless water and sprinkle ourselves with it, we renew our Baptismal Promises. We welcome new members and are strengthened by their faith. And we glory in all that has happened. It takes a lifetime for us to realize what happened that day more than 2,000 years ago. The resurrection of Jesus colors every facet of our lives. We need to live it. We need to pass it on to more people every day of our lives.

And we might receive Easter baskets, decorated eggs, jelly beans and chocolate bunnies, all signs of New Life. And we feast on Spring goodies, breaking our Lenten Fast and celebrating the most important thing we believe as Christian People. The long reign of sin is ended. Light has overcome darkness and life has won out over death. Jesus is risen from the dead!

So we take the message to the streets. We live as people filled with hope. We share that hope with those around us. We work tirelessly against selfishness, evil, sin, darkness and death knowing that the power of the resurrection is infinitely stronger. That power grows stronger still as we share it and strengthen the faith of others. It was impossible to extinguish the message. Jesus lives. Jesus lives in us. Christ has died. Christ is risen! Christ will come again! ALLELUIA!"