

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Diane Przyborowski
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Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Easter is a time of Rebirth, Renewal, and Rejoicing. The scripture of creation seems to call us to wake up! The grayness of winter comes alive with the newness of Spring. All of nature seems to celebrate the wonder of life itself. Spring flowers and bushes are popping out all over in their soft and bright pinks, yellows, lavenders and greens. Easter lilies are radiating their fragrance and the birds are building nests and joyfully singing away. The earth is indeed proclaiming that this is a new day, a new time. This is the time to remember and know that Jesus has been raised from the dead by his Father. Jesus is now the glorified Christ who has overcome death. Jesus didn't exchange his dead body for a new one. He was totally transformed through the power of his Father's love. We can only begin to get a glimpse of this mystery if we do not separate the Resurrection from the last three days of the Triduum. They are part of the Resurrection. Jesus' experiences during these days is our experience too through him. Let us remember....

Holy Thursday – a time to be of service, to eat and pray with the community, to suffer an agony of spirit, to be betrayed.

Good Friday – a time to endure physical and spiritual pain, to be betrayed once again, to be spit on and made a laughing stock, to fall in the dirt, to be nailed to a cross, to witness the agony of his mother and faithful friends, to forgive, to reward faith in him, to let go of his mother, to yearn for his Father, to surrender his life, to die and be buried.

Holy Saturday – a time of patient waiting, a kind of emptiness.

Easter – being raised from the dead, disbelief, transformation, love bursting from the grave. All of this and more was Jesus' experience.

How are we then to be Easter people? How are we able to be transformed? How can we be full of new life? Maybe the answer is simpler than we think it is. Maybe it all comes down to Love, deep Love..... a Love like Jesus showed us. A love whose seeds are planted throughout Jesus' life and bear ultimate fruit in the Resurrection experience that continues on even until today. Seeds of Love like forgiveness, being in community, washing feet, forgetting self, enduring betrayal or misunderstanding, being patient with what life presents and offering only blessing, dying to the little self that craves attention, paying attention to the needs of my perceived enemies, letting Love transform me, letting Love transform the world.

This world of ours today seems to need these Easter seeds of Resurrected Life more than ever. This world of ours needs to meet the risen Christ. Can we consciously radiate love and joy to all beings including our Mother Earth? I say yes we can. We are all part of the resurrected Christ. We may not experience that reality in its fullness while here on this earthly plane but we do catch glimpses if it. Pay attention to your resurrected life and our resurrected life. They are one and the same. There is a simple practice that we can do during Easter time and beyond.

The Easter egg is a precious symbol for our Easter reflections. The Easter egg is significant in many cultures. In my Polish tradition it is very important. Did you know that in time past the eating of eggs was prohibited during Lent? Probably because they came from an animal. It was a big deal to eat eggs on Easter morning. In our Polish tradition, all the Easter breakfast food was blessed on Holy Saturday and eaten cold on Easter morning. Of all our Polish holidays I loved this breakfast most of all. We began with one hard boiled egg cut in the number of pieces as family around the table. We all took a piece in the spirit of being part of the one resurrected Lord and ate it together. This was a kind of partaking in Eucharist. Oneness, love, joy spread to the whole world as well as the family. Maybe that is a practice we could adopt today. Share eggs with each other consciously and send thoughts of love and unity for all the world. Or maybe remember you are an alleluia person each time you eat eggs no matter their form.

We can and do make a difference as we live in the light of the Resurrected Christ! Let yourself feel the new life in whatever form it takes. Let your whole being be filled with new life and love. Be joyful, be happy, be loving! Be the Easter Alleluia sung for all to hear.