

Easter Sunday April 16, 2017

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

— Colossians 3:4

ST. JOHN VIANNEY PARISH

OUR MISSION

Devoted to Jesus Christ as disciples, we help others become disciples, and work to renew our culture.

OUR VISION

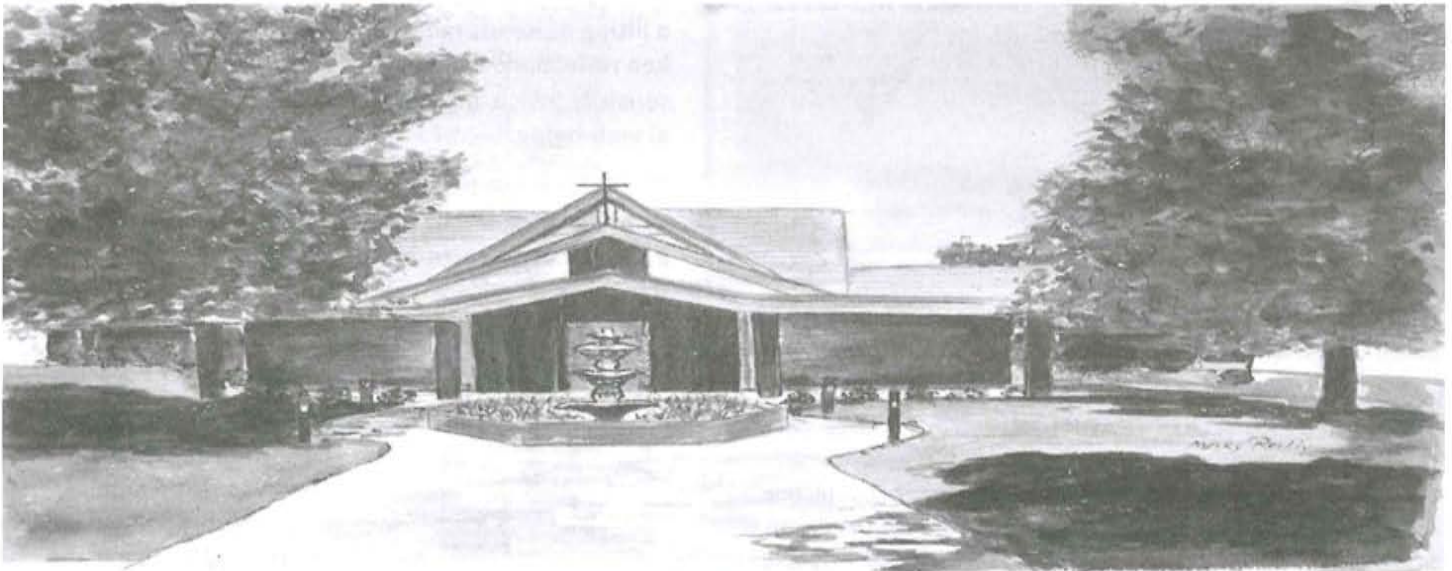
That all who experience St. John Vianney Parish in any way, find Christ irresistible.

NUESTRA MISIÓN

Como discípulos devotos de Jesucristo, ayudamos a otros a ser discípulos, y trabajamos para renovar nuestra cultura.

NUESTRA VISIÓN

Que todos los que se relacionen con nosotros encuentren la presencia de Cristo irresistible.



10497 Coloma Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, Parish Office 8am—3:30pm, 362-1385, closed for lunch 12:30-1:30pm
fax 706-1135, email-sjvc@prodigy.net, parish website – sjvparish.com

Parish Clergy

Fr. Charles Kelly, Pastor
Fr. Raj Derivera, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Martin Moroney, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mr. Walter Little, Deacon
Rev. Mr. David Robinson, Deacon
Rev. Mr. Daniel Rangel, Deacon

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE: Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 pm, Sunday 8 am,
9:45 am, 11:30 am, 1:15 pm (Sp.), 6:30 pm, (Sp.)

Daily Mass: M-F 8 am (English), Wed 6 pm (Spanish)
Confessions: 5 pm (WED) & 4 pm (SAT)
Adoration (Blessed Sacrament): Thur. 8:30am-9pm (Eng.)
Adoración al Santísimo premier viernes del mes, 9pm-12am
Filipino Mass: Second Sunday at 3 pm
Indonesian Mass: Fourth Sunday at 3 pm. Go to
<https://sites.google.com/site/kkisacramento1> for more info on
the Indonesian Catholic Community.
Hour of Mercy: Every Thursday evening in the
Sister Bede Prayer Chapel, 6pm - 7pm.

Go to the parish website @ sjvparish.com for more info about parish
events and parish registration.



PARISH STAFF

Parish Office—Vange Fisher, Office Manager	362-1385
School Office	363-4610
Spanish Rel. Ed, Quinceañeras, (Sp.) baptisms, call Sr. Vicenta Lemus for information	368-9410
English CCD—Sister Josefina Peralta Fdccc	222-9130
RCIA, Eng.—Tom Beigel	635-8399
Baptism—Rose Ramos	595-0243
Baptism—Marilou Manela	600-0337
Youth Ministry—Valerie Anda	362-3827
Hall Office —Linda Condon, Manager	362-5068
St. Vincent de Paul Society	362-4792
Thrift Store—Karla Aguilera-Chavez, Manager	363-1559
Cordova Food Locker—Gregg B. Huestis	364-8973
Eucharistic Home Bound Ministry—Jean Pergande	857-1695

Weddings: Contact parish office 6 months in advance.

Quinceañeras: Contact Sister Vicenta Lemus 6 months in advance.

Rosary for the Military and their families: 2nd Sunday of the
month after 8am Mass.

Meet Your Neighbor: First Sunday of the Month in the Parish Hall after the
8:00 & 9:45am Masses—September thru June. Call Traci for information @
719.290.0163.

Divine Mercy Concert APRIL 23, 2017 Featuring "Paul Koleske" ALL ARE WELCOME!!

WE WILL CELEBRATE DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY WITH A CONCERT IN ST. JOHN VIANNEY CHURCH



Divine Mercy Sunday April 23rd @ 3:30 pm. Paul will be offering us a presentation of his Inspired Music and Inspirational Spoken Reflections!

His Catholic Music & Speaking Ministry began after a miraculous experience on December 12, 1993 (which he will share in his presentation).

Paul's Concert/Reflection Series have been called a "mini personal retreat" by those who've experienced a lifting of heart, mind, and soul. His music and spoken reflections will provide you with an increased sense of peace, insight and inspiration for your spiritual well-being.

This is far more than a musical event and you are welcome to bring family and friends to hear his witness and see how it can affect your life as a Catholic Christian.

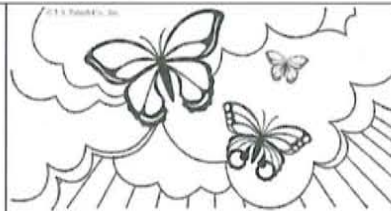
The concert is free and a free will gift offering will be taken.

Paul Koleske travels the United States of conducting Parish Missions, Concerts & Reflections, Retreats, and Youth Ministry Events.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Easter is nearly three weeks later this year than last. Why does the date wobble around the calendar so? The way of calculating the date was set by the Emperor Constantine in 325. The decision ended a very bitter controversy in the church. Some people wanted to synchronize the Pasch with Passover on the fourteenth day of the Jewish month Nissan, and their opponents wanted it after the Passover was complete, on the Sunday after the first full moon of springtime. The ecclesiastical rules do not exactly connect with the astronomical rules. The emperor squashed the hopes of the quartodecimans, as the fans of 14 Nissan were called, and chose Sunday. The traditional rule is that Easter is the first Sunday after the first ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox, the fourteenth day of the new moon, and later than March 21. Thus, Easter wobbles between March 22 and April 25.

The actual tables and methods for computing the date are extraordinarily detailed, with subtle variations and mind-bending exceptions and charts with "golden numbers," "dominical letters," and "epacts" measuring leap years. In 1954 and 1962 the ecclesiastical calculations actually overrode the astronomical new moons and bumped Easter back a month! Today, there is a movement in the World Council of Churches (Protestants and Orthodox) for all Christians to combine their celebrations, based on the star charts for the Jerusalem skies. In principle, the Catholic Church is open to an ecumenical agreement on a fixed date for Easter, but we desire a unanimous decision from the World Council. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Friends: There have been times, especially at the funeral of a child, when I have prayed and asked God to bring the child back to life if it be His will. And I have thought, "What would I do if it actually happened?" "I would be scared to death," I said to myself. We would end up celebrating my own funeral!

With the resurrection, a dead God actually came back to life, yet it doesn't scare us to death. It fills us with joy. I can now converse with a loving spirit with my God. He doesn't hate me, or condemn me for my past, or punish me for my mistakes today. He only wants to bring me back to life, taking me out of my self-centered, sinful ways, and bringing me into a new future of joy, peace, love, health and strength.

As spring shows forth God's thought for beauty, may we all bask in His resurrected beauty, and be transformed by it.

Peace, Fr. Chuck



"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13

News From the Parish

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL VOLUNTEERS will be selling tickets for a "Hawaiian Get Away for 2". Proceeds benefit St Vincent de Paul Society. The Get-a-Way is for 6 days 5 nights at the Sheraton Maui Resort & Spa. Package includes airfare for 2, up to \$1000., Hertz Rent-a-Car up to \$400. voucher, & a \$500. American Express gift card. Total value is \$3,500. Tickets are \$10. Need not be present to win. Tickets will be sold April 23 after the 8am, 9:45am & 11:15 Masses. Call Charles Popp for tickets @ 916-698-2043.

Parish Breakfast will be April 23, 2017. after the 8 & 9:45am Masses. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, their families and friends. \$5.00 pp or 20.00 per family. Come and enjoy a freshly made breakfast.

TODAY IS THE EASTER EGG HUNT !! For children ages 3-10 yrs old. Meet at the parish Hall after the 11:30am Mass. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus # 5322.



K of C Council # 5322 Fundraiser: Our local Straw Hat Pizza will generously donate 50% of every pizza purchased on April 24, 2017 (pizza only, does not include drinks, salad bar, etc.) to support the charitable activities of the K of C Council # 5322. Just mention when ordering your pizza that your purchase be credited towards the fundraiser. To order your pizza call Straw Hat Pizza at 2929 Mather Field Rd., Rancho Cordova, 916.363.5050.

FR. MORONEY GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Saturday May 6th, 2017, Mather Golf Course Rancho Cordova, CA.

For more information and registration contact

Paul Labbe—320.6956 or Steve Cushing—804.8875. Registration Deadline is May 2nd. Registration fees and BBQ fees are due by

May 5th, 2017. Entry fees can be paid by cash, check, credit card or

on-line via PayPal. To pay by credit card call

Cal Schell at 208.2201. Tournament

website: <http://www.ranchoknights.com/golf>.



FAITH FORMATION AND CCD DATES & EVENTS FROM SISTER JOSEFINA PERALTA FDCC

THURS. APRIL 20TH CONFIRMATION PRACTICE— 6:00PM-8:00PM IN THE CHURCH. CANDIDATE & SPONSOR ARRIVE AT 5:45PM. (OR PARENT IF SPONSOR CAN NOT ATTEND).

MON. APRIL 24: CONFIRMATION MASS—6:00PM IN THE CHURCH PLEASE BE IN CHURCH BY 5:45PM.

REGISTRATION FOR VBS is now open. Fee is \$60. per child. VBS will start on June 12-16 from 9am–12pm, Pick up registration forms at the parish office or church. Adult volunteers are needed, contact Sister Josefina @ josiesep@sjvparish.com or call 916.222.9130.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Next Inquiry class begins April 30, 10am-11:15am in the Fr. McKeon Rm. Adults who desire to prepare for the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist (First Communion), are invited to join us. Also, anyone who wants to learn more about the Catholic Faith is welcome.

Upcoming topics: April 30-Your Journey of Faith. May 7-What do Catholics Believe? May 21-What is the meaning of the Mass

For more information, please contact Tom Beigel (916.635.8399 or email tbeigel@gmail.com.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY KINDERGARTEN: Is your child ready to enter Kindergarten next year? St. John Vianney School is now accepting applications for students entering kindergarten in fall 2017. Kindergarten testing will begin on April 24th. Please stop by the school office or go online to www.sjvschool.org for an application. Completed applications can be dropped off in the school office. Once applications are submitted, you will be contacted with the date and time of your child's kindergarten testing. We look forward to meeting with you and your child in April! Please contact the school office at 363-4610 for additional information.



Around the Parish

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION TO END ABORTION: On April 30, 2017 Bishop Jaime Soto will celebrate the 5:00 pm Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, and afterwards lead a Eucharistic Procession around the State Capitol in a journey of prayer and public witness to end abortion. Also carried in this Procession will be an actual (4' X 6') authentic replica of the original Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. See www.scddec.org/respect-life for more information.

PRISON PILGRIMAGE OF MERCY: Come join us to visit and pray with inmates every week at Folsom State Prison and California State Prison, Sacramento. We offer weekly spiritual programs for the prisoners. For those who have not visited a prison, we offer a monthly Prison Pilgrimage of Mercy on first Saturdays. If you have a calling to join us we meet every first Saturday at St. John the Baptist church, in the Guadalupe room, at 1:30 pm to discuss the programs and how we can help prisoners. It's fun and inspirational, with intriguing discussions. One of the things we can offer Jesus for a spirit-filled lent is to make a resolution to visit someone in prison once a month. It will amaze you the peace and joy you will find. If you would like to join us please call...the Prison/Restorative Justice Ministry 916.933.5007

YOU'RE INVITED to St Katharine Drexel Parish in Jackson for "BUILDING, STRENGTHENING and INSPIRING CHRISTIAN FAMILIES" a one day retreat presented by Joseph Jones, on Saturday, April 29, 2017, 9 AM - 3 PM. On Friday, April 28, from 7 -8 PM Joseph tells the inspirational story of his and his family's conversion to the Catholic faith from the Pentecostal Church. Both events are FREE! Meals and refreshments will be provided. Register at stkatharinedrexel.com or call (209) 223-2970.

"MEN'S DAY OF FAITH RENEWAL, "FOR THE GLORY OF GOD"

Will be held on **APRIL 29, 2017** at St. Mel Parish Center at 4748 Pennsylvania Ave. Fair Oaks CA. Featured speaker: Mr. JOE McClain: Catholic Speaker, Author, Evangelist, affectionately known online as, "The Catholic Hack" is the General Manager of KSHJ 1430am Catholic Radio in Houston, and talk show host of "Evangelium Live" on the Guadalupe Radio Network. The event is for men 18 and older. The day begins with Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass and a light breakfast with talks to follow including time for discussions and QA. Confessions will be available. A delicious catered lunch will be served. The event is expected to conclude at 3:30 pm, Registration is \$40. and can be completed on line at www.smpcevents.org. For more information call: 916-967-1229.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday:	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Monday:	Monday within the Octave of Easter; Income Tax Day
Tuesday:	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
Wednesday:	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Thursday:	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Friday:	Friday within the Octave of Easter
Saturday:	Saturday within the Octave of Easter; Earth Day

Mass Intentions April 15-22, 2017

Holy Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	Confessions
	8:15pm	Easter Vigil—Bilingual
Easter Sunday	8:00am	Robert Buck †
		Chris Ladrini †
	9:45am	Honorato Nalzar †
		Maria Salazar †
	11:30am	Jose Michael Mallari †
		Craig Youngblood †
	1:15pm	Victor Cedeño †
	6:30pm	Arnulfo & Carmen Ayala . †
Monday	8:00am	Domingo & Virgilia Garcia †
Tuesday	8:00am	Frank Brown †
		Flor Manela Healing Intention
Wednesday	8:00am	Richard Nanoo †
	6:00pm	Jose Alfredo Rodriguez †
Thursday	8:00am	St. John Vianney Parish Community
Friday	8:00am	Margarita Maya Healing Int.
Saturday	5:30pm	Brandon Sia Special Intention

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Psalm — This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

(1) Second Reading — All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3:1-4) *or*

(2) Second Reading — Christ our Passover is sacrificed; therefore let us celebrate (1 Corinthians 5:6b-8).

Gospel — Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20:1-9) *or* Matthew 28:1-10 (*or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Luke 24:13-35*).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Parish Ministries

English CCD classes: CCD classes every Monday 6:30-8:00pm.

Call Sister Josefina Peralta @ 916-222-9130 for additional information.

English Baptism and Preparation classes: 1 class required. Next class is April 23, 2017, in the Southwest Room/Parish Hall. Baptism is May 7, 2017 at the 11:30 am Mass, St. John Vianney Parish. Parents and godparents must attend the class unless they have attended a class within the last 2 years. Paperwork must be completed before the class. Contact Rose Ramos @ (916) 595-0243 for additional information.

Spanish Rel Ed: Sr. Vicenta 368-9410, Spanish Rel Ed Office is closed every Monday. **La oficina esta cerrada cada lunes.** **Spanish baptism Classes:** Call to register Sr. Vicenta—368-9410

Youth Group: For info please call Valerie Anda @ 362-3827

Vocations Committee: Meets every 3rd Thursday of the Month contact Ross Viray at rossroxv@gmail.com. For discernment/vocations questions please contact vocations@sjvparish.com

SJV School Grades TK-8: Now enrolling for 2016-17 school year, call the school office @ 363-4610 for information. **SJV** students share in the Liturgy of the Word and choir every third Sunday at 9:45 am Mass.

Divine Mercy Apostolate: Please join & help spread the Unfathomable Mercy and grace available to each and every soul. Every Thursday we invite you to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 3pm and again at 6pm in the Sister Bede room (Adoration Chapel). For info on yearly celebrations and events call Chris Bailey at (916) 361-1340.

RCIA: Monday evenings 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the hall. Call Tom Beigel @ 916.635.8399 or Debbi Cushing @ 916.806.2907 for information.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Ongoing every Sunday, 9:45am Mass, Children ages 5-10 yrs welcome—Kim Perry-Reed 916.203.5711.

Adult Bible Study: Contact Chris Bailey @ 916-361-1340.

Caring Connections: Parish Outreach Ministry to new parish members, the sick, homebound and the bereaved. Meetings are 2nd Mon-Sept thru May, 6pm at the Fr. Moroney Room. New members welcome. For info please call Linda Morales 635-2019

Eucharistic Adoration/Home Bound Ministry: Jean Pergande call 857-1695

Catholic Daughters of the Americas: Meeting 3rd Tuesday South West room of the hall at 7:00pm. For Info: Call Diane McDonald 916-316-5625

PARISH ROSARY FOR MILITARY Second Sunday of the month in the church after the 8 am Mass.

SJV Mr. & Mrs. Club: Come join us, become a member by calling Al or Carla Cervantes at 638-0060. Meetings 2nd Saturday of the month 7pm-hall. **Socials 4th Saturday.**

YLI-Young Ladies Institute: Immaculate Mary #238, 2nd Wed. of the Month, 7:30pm-Fireside Room, Contact: Marilyn Walter 638-7905.

Knights of Columbus: Meetings held 2nd Thurs. of the month - 7:15pm in the Fireside Rm. Contact: G.K. Steve Cushing @ 804-8875. **SJV Parish Family Breakfast** third Sunday of the month, after the 8:00 & 9:45am Masses, Sept. thru June, for more info go www.ranchoknights.com.

St. Vincent De Paul: Meets the third Tuesday of the month 6 pm in the Fr. Moroney room.

Gabriel Project: Outreach program to pregnant mothers and their families, so that all babies may be welcomed. Call for info Claudia Beigel, 635-8399. Meetings are in the Fr. McKeon Rm in the parish office, 2nd Sundays of the month @ 10am.

Respect for Life: Respect life means to honor Life as sacred from the moment of conception until natural death. If you would like to become a member: (Family Movie Night) (Annual-40 Days for Life in Sacramento), or (Annual-Walk for Life in San Francisco). Call Chris Bailey, Respect Life Coordinator @ (916) 361-1340.

Loaves and Fishes: Feeds the hungry & shelters the homeless. **Volunteers needed.** Please call Chiyoko at 635-3928 or Joanne Le Compte at 369-0540.

Martha and Mary Ministry: Martha and Mary Ministry meets every first Friday of the month after 8 am Mass and Sacred Heart adoration in the Father Moroney room. To volunteer call Connie- 635-3865.

Adoración al Santísimo: Premier viernes del mes, de 9pm-12am.

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APRIL 16 – JUNE 4, 2017



EASTER HOUSEHOLD BLESSINGS AND **Prayers**

EASTER DAILY PRAYER

For your saving death, O Christ,
and your glorious Resurrection,
Let all the earth cry out with joy!

For the glad tidings of your gospel,
and your wondrous ascension into
heaven,
Let all the earth cry out with joy!

For your gift of daily discipleship,
and the sending of the Spirit each day,
Let all the earth cry out with joy! Alleluia!

TABLE PRAYER **FOR THE SEASON OF EASTER**

Christ is risen, Alleluia!

How generous is your love, O Lord,
shown by the food on our table
and our salvation in Christ.

How generous is your love, O Lord,
given in the breaking of the Eucharistic bread
and in sharing the Cup of salvation.

How generous is your love, O Lord.
May others come to know it as well
through our charity and witness to justice.

Christ is risen, Alleluia!

You have made this day for blessing, O Lord;
let us be blessed and joyful,
now and at the supper of the Lamb. Amen.

FROM VIA CRUCIS TO VIA LUCIS

In December of 2001 the Holy See issued a *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*. In that document, the devotional practice known as the *Via Lucis* (the Way of Light) was noted.

In imitation of the Way of the Cross (*Via Crucis*), the stations of the Way of Light (*Via Lucis*) are based on the Resurrection appearances of Jesus. Though not as well-established or defined as the *Via Crucis*, this *Via Lucis* is a prayerful way to celebrate the joy, hope, and power of the Resurrection. Here are some “stations” to get you started. You may want to add your own favorite Gospel resurrection stories.

The finding of the empty tomb. “But when the women looked up, they saw that the very large stone at the door of the tomb, had been rolled away.” (Mark 16:4)

Prayer: Risen Lord, may I have the faith to find you in hollow and surprising places.

Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus. Jesus looked at her and said, “Mary.” She turned and cried out in a loud voice, “Rabboni!” (“Teacher!”). (John 20:16)

Prayer: Risen Lord, I listen for your voice calling me by name; look on me in mercy.

Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus The two disciples urged Jesus, “Stay here with us, evening draws near; the day is almost over.” So Jesus went in, and stayed with them. (Luke 24:29)

Prayer: Risen Lord, stay with me through every day, as I follow you steadfastly.

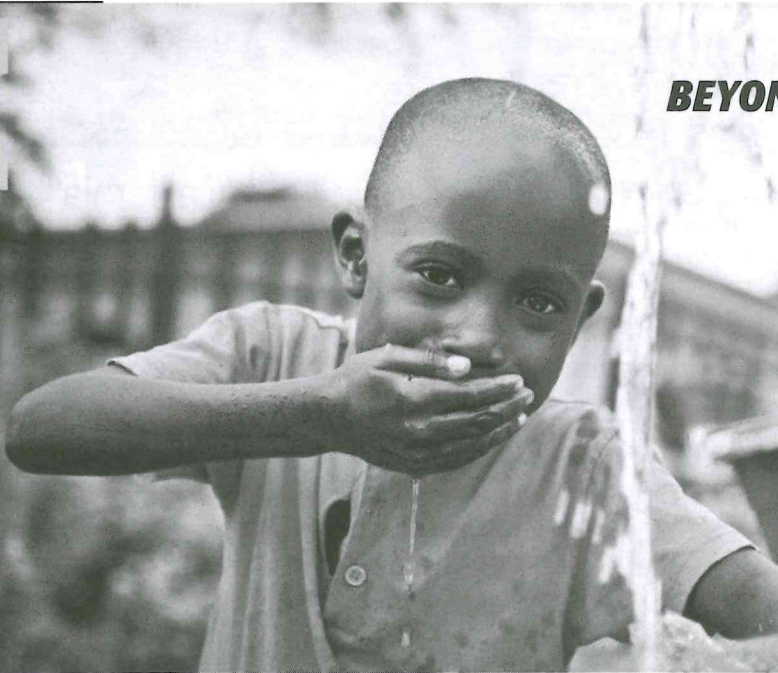
Jesus strengthens the faith of Thomas. Jesus said to Thomas, “Put your fingers here; see my hands—reach out your own hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt, but believe.” (John 20:26)

Prayer: Risen Lord, let me face my doubts as Thomas did; increase my belief.

Jesus commissions his followers. Jesus said: “Go, make disciples of the nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

Prayer: Risen Lord, help me obey your command to be a strong and faithful messenger.

Mercy



BEYOND THE JUBILEE YEAR

Although the official observance of the Jubilee year of mercy is past, all of Christian life hinges on the practice of mercy. This Easter season, here are some concrete ways to do so.

- ***Week One: Give drink to the thirsty.***

In your own life, be intentional about water usage; look for ways to reduce waste and become aware of the gift we often take for granted. Donate to an organization that helps provide safe drinking water to the developing world, such as the Water Project, Catholic Relief Services, or Heifer International.

- ***Week Two: Bury the dead.***

If your parish is hosting a funeral this week, help pray that soul into Heaven. Can you offer up an early lunch hour to volunteer as a lector, sacristan, or extraordinary minister of communion? Help prepare a meal for the bereaved?

- ***Week Three: Visit the sick.***

No one wants to expose themselves to sickness. But those experiencing illness have great need for support from their communities. Who in your school, parish or neighborhood is overwhelmed by the illness, whether major or seasonal, of a family member? Can you mow their lawn? Bring them dinner? Run errands they can't do themselves? Chauffeur children to activities?

- ***Week Four: Visit the imprisoned.***

Those involved in prison ministry can attest to how fulfilling it can be. If this is too far outside your comfort zone, perhaps you can become pen pals with an inmate. Sites like friendsbeyondthewall.com and writeaprisoner.com allow you to send messages electronically or via post.

- ***Week Five: Counsel the doubtful.***

Most of us experience too much doubt ourselves to feel equal to this work of mercy. This week, read a book about the faith and shore up your own, so you can help another when the need arises.

- ***Week Six: Pray for the living and the dead.***

It's easy to get sidetracked by the phone, the kids, the dirty dishes, or the song on the earbuds. This week, make a physical list of all the people you know who have asked for prayers. Devote five minutes a day to quiet, undistracted prayer.

- ***Week Seven: Admonish sinners***

This week, before engaging in "admonishment," take a few moments to try to understand the other person's experiences, and how they got there. When things must be said, focus on actions, and frame your words with kindness, understanding, and lack of judgment.



Eye to eye

WITH JESUS

In the time between Easter and the Ascension, Jesus appeared to his disciples in the burial garden, in closed rooms, and by lake shores. It's tempting to view those stories as mere throwbacks to Scriptural times. It was easier for them, we tell ourselves; they actually saw Jesus himself.

We often forget that more than once, the disciples failed to recognize Jesus until his actions revealed his divinity. Why was that? Were their minds clouded? Or is it possible that he wore a different face than the man they had known? Maybe, just maybe, it was as difficult for them to recognize the face of Jesus as it is for us today.

Modern life keeps us in motion and constantly stimulated. The irony is that with so much to see, we miss a lot. We avoid eye contact with people holding signs at street corners; we avoid eye contact with people who exhibit signs of disability or mental illness; we avoid eye contact with people going through tough times, because we don't know what to say or we don't want to get involved.

Eye contact invites communication, and communication leads to relationship. However fleeting, we are, in that moment, responsible for honoring the dignity of another person. We are compelled to act, but we don't know how we can take on another burden when we're already so heavy-laden that we feel we're treading water. We're afraid the weight of one more thing will pull us under.

Jesus Christ is still appearing in our world, every day, every moment. But if we do not consciously seek his face among those we encounter, we run the risk of not recognizing him at all.

AN EASTER LETTER FROM ST. BERNADETTE

My dear brothers and sisters:

You may know my name because it is tied to one of the great feasts of the Church year. But I beg you to remember that the woman you honor as St. Bernadette was the humblest of God's creatures. My family was so poor, all seven of us lived in a single basement room that had once been a jail. At the time my adventure began, I couldn't even read or write. In fact, I had not even received my first Communion, because my teachers thought I was too dim-witted to learn what was necessary.

To put it simply, I was not a likely candidate to become a visionary.

That day when I was fourteen, I went out to gather firewood near the cave called Massabielle, which was sometimes used as a garbage dump for the people of our town. I fell behind my companions, and I heard the sound of rushing wind, but nothing was moving—except a wild rose in a dark corner of the grotto. It was my first glimpse of the white-clad lady who eventually called herself the Immaculate Conception.

My companions saw nothing. As the visions continued, I became a point of division in our town. Some thought I was lying; others, that I belonged in an asylum. Police and clergy questioned me, certain it was all a hoax. Yet sick people began visiting the spring she had shown me. Many were cured.

May God give you the courage to allow divine work to be done through you.

To Christ be all glory forever,
Bernadette Soubirous

St. Bernadette contracted cholera as a toddler and suffered from asthma for the rest of her life. By the time the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception at Massabielle was dedicated in 1876, her health was too poor to allow her to attend. She died in 1879 at the age of thirty-five and was canonized in 1933. Her feast day is April 16.

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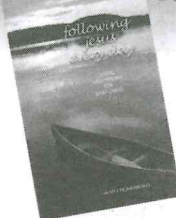
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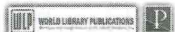
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