

Reflection

*Offered by Sr. Mary Ellen McAleese
April 5, 2015*

Easter Sunday Reflection

[May these words accompany you during these 50 days of Easter]

Good Morning and “Happy Easter”

What fond memories or thoughts come to mind

When you hear the words “Happy Easter”

is it certain foods your family shared

a new Easter bonnet or outfit, or an Easter parade

the melody of “Here comes Peter cotton tail”

hiding colored eggs

long hours spent in church – with lots of candies

many symbols

special music

I’m certain that some of these experiences have been a part of some of our Easters-
even this year!

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Perhaps for those of us who are somewhat more philosophical, theological, intellectual
or just curious - when we hear the words “Happy Easter” - we might ask ourselves or
others some of these questions –

What does anyone really know about Christ’s resurrection? (Even our Scriptures have
different accounts.)

What does today’s feast really celebrate?

Are there different degrees of Resurrection – determined by one’s awareness,
consciousness, transformation?

Do we have to die before we experience the Resurrection?

What of the Resurrection reality can we know while still in our human experience?

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I've had a number of opportunities to share reflections on Easter and usually have the same initial response: What MORE is there to say? [especially when I know that those gathered have been present for the entire Triduum plus Palm Sunday and probably every Sunday of Lent... (and even the readings from year to year have only slight variations)

What MORE is there to say?

Really there is nothing more to say but rather the invitation to LISTEN and LOOK deeper...ponder, reflect, recall, relive...re-member in us here and now ... and PROCLAIM... what was... what is... what might be...

The invitation to tell our own Emmaus Story to each other...until we recognize the ONE who calls us by name...the ONE who shares bread with us...the ONE who lets us touch the Mystery...the One who went this way before us...And says clearly to us – "I AM" the Resurrection!

So, what do we REMEMBER from this year's Liturgical celebrations?

What have we HEARD, FELT, SEEN with NEW ears, NEW eyes, a NEW heart ?

Palm Sunday – loyalty/betrayal

Holy Thursday-service, our being Eucharist

Good Friday – Letting go, Love outpoured, Forgiveness

Holy Saturday – liminal time – wondering -waiting around- what really happened/ how /why...what next?

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And so here we are at Easter 2015? Are we really any different after all these years?

BEFORE the Resurrection (as recorded) those in company with Jesus didn't understand his actions or his words.

AFTER the Resurrection (as recorded) even those closest did not recognize him standing in their midst.

Until one was called by name...given broken bread... invited to touch!

There at least 2 sides to all of this mystery...

How / where do we RECOGNIZE the Christ in our lives?

.How / when do we RECOGNIZE our own Resurrection?

NEW LIFE ...NEW AWARENESS?

An 18th century theologian, William Law, offers a simple and yet profound practice of greeting each new day as a small personal resurrection...He writes "As the morning is to you the beginning of a new life and a fresh entrance into the world...Receive, every day as a resurrection from death, as a new enjoyment of life...Meet every rising sun as if you had seen it and all things, newly created just for you – be grateful and rejoice!"

So each of us have had this experience as recent as this morning...our own small personal Resurrection!

We know the recorded Easter stories well enough to tell them in our SLEEP!

May we AWAKEN each morning to EXPLORE how to LIVE EASTER that day!

Aware of our many small personal Resurrections!!

"HAPPY EASTER"