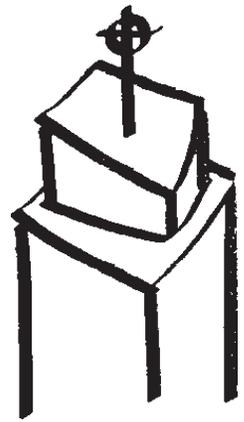


OUR FAMILY



NEWS

For Oblates of St. Bede Abbey, Peru, Illinois



March &
April, 2020



EASTER MONDAY



“Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

On a few special occasions the Roman lectionary offers alternative readings for the liturgy, and these words from St. Paul seem very appropriate for a feast on which baking figures so prominently. Unfortunately, being “Option #2” on Easter Sunday meant that most congregations didn’t hear these words; and even if they did, the Gospel story easily sidelines Paul’s words about yeast and dough. After all, the whole concept of resurrection is so dramatic. It literally screams out for trumpet blasts, while yeast seems so insignificant. Or is it?

The Lord’s resurrection rightly stands front and center in the Christian imagination. It shapes the Christian view of life, and it is the fixed point on the far horizons of our own eternal life. But sometimes the high drama of the resurrection obscures the value of all those little things in our lives. To say the least, not every day and not every deed is a headliner. But lest we forget, those little things are pretty much the stuff of our lives. So why relegate them to the sidelines, especially at Easter?

All too often big feast days come and go, and the only lingering impact is a pile of dirty dishes and perhaps some wonderful memories. But this year Paul’s words struck me with particular force. They reminded me that when all is said and done, I could very well emerge from Lent and Holy Week pretty much the same person, unchanged and unscathed. But I realize now what a shame that would be; and I also realize it need not be so, nor should it be so.

For one thing, why would I not want to grow, if even a smidgeon? Why would I want to continue in my same old ruts? Why would I persist in the same old vision of my talents, or the seeming lack thereof? Why would I want to resign myself to the belief that nothing about me can or will change? Why would I want to plod on, chained by the conviction that life will continue to be more of same, even if it is sometimes seasoned by joy and accomplishment?

As dramatic as the resurrection of Jesus may be, it gives new perspective to all those side comments that Jesus offered throughout his ministry. When Jesus spoke of the folly of putting new wine into old wineskins, he pointed out how our entrenched attitudes can tear apart the very ideas that rejuvenate us. When he conjured up the “leaven of the Pharisees,” he warned against those subtle attitudes that turn our lives into tedium and stifle our own creativity. And when he urges us to refresh the salt that seasons our lives, he reminds us of how stale and staid our lives can become — especially when we are not paying attention.

There are a couple of big take-aways from Easter worth remembering, and the first is obvious. Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and we celebrate as well the promise of our own resurrection on the last day. But the second point is just as important. If we are to become people of the resurrection we must not wait until the end of time to get started.

Rather, we need to live in that vision here and now, if we are to take seriously the promise of that resurrection.

That means that come Easter Monday we need to look at our same old talents and gifts with fresh eyes. We ought to look at our friends and neighbors — not as parts of an old and familiar landscape, but as our chance to do something worthwhile. And perhaps most important of all, we need to look in the mirror at the same old person, but to do so with delight.

At Easter we sing a wonderful verse: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice.” But as people of the resurrection it’s just as fair to say: “You and I are the people the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice.”

—Fr. Eric Hollas, O.S.B
St. John’s Abbey
Collegeville, Minnesota

April 21, 2014

Through the Red Sea brought at last,
Egypt’s chains behind we cast.
Deep and wide
Flows the tide
Sev’ring us from bondage past.

Like the cloud that overhead
Through the billows Israel led,
By his tomb
Christ makes room,
Souls restoring from the dead.

In that cloud and in that sea
Buried and baptized were we.
Earthly night
Brought us light
Which is ours eternally.

Then, deceitful world, adieu,
Egypt’s land in distant view.
Christ our love
Draws above,
Dead with him and ris’n anew.



Director of Oblates: Br. Nathaniel Grossmann, O.S.B.

Editor: Vicki L. Gensini

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We welcome your submissions to this publication, either instructive or reflective, whether prose or poetry. They should in some way relate to the **Rule of Benedict**, Benedictine spirituality, and/or the oblate program. The editor reserves the rights to choose material for publication and to edit as necessary.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING MEETINGS

Meetings are held in the abbey church from 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Sunday, March 8, 2020

Sunday, April 5, 2020

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Passage for *Lectio* at the March Meeting

For in sacrifice you take no delight;
burnt offering from me would not please you.

My sacrifice to God, a broken spirit:
a broken and humbled heart,
O God, you will not spurn.

Ps 51:16-17

Passage for *Lectio* at the April Meeting

This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

1 John 4:9-12