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**85**

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**HE IS THE RISEN LORD** "Who do you say that I am?"

We began our journey towards the glorious Resurrection of the Son of God on a morning six weeks ago; we've been on a very earnest quest. We picked up the question asked by the people of Jerusalem -- Who is this Jesus?" At first, the answers seemed to flow out of the very substance of life itself -- "He is a man, a prophet, a teacher, a healer." But once we considered the possibility, "He is the Son of God," the question suddenly seemed to hang in the air. For this answer does not come out of the data of history, but out of the stuff of faith; and thus we were forced to confront a more probing and personal question, "Who do you say that I am?" On Easter morning, however, we encounter the most unbelievable answer of all -- "He is the risen Lord!"

Many have difficulty with the answer of Easter -- some say right out, "I just can't believe that!" If that's the way it is with you, I can assure you, my brothers and sisters, that you are in good company -- your reaction is not all that unusual. Even the disciples had difficulty. In Luke we read, "Their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not."

What would be the characteristics of this new life, this Easter gift from the risen Lord? It would be a joyous assurance that we are not alone. Because he is alive, we have now heard a voice speaking from outside this universe -- and know that the most important element in this created order is not matter, or atoms, or black holes, but faith, hope and love -- things human yet divine, living things.

Because of the risen Lord we also know a power stronger than death. We need to meet Jesus as the risen Lord when we stand in the ruins of our own defeats, in the shadows of death -- of our loved ones and of ourselves. Because on Easter we meet the risen Lord, it sparks something so personal in us that our conviction is strengthened to become part of what endures, even though shaken.

The good news about Easter is, "He is the risen Lord." Jesus of Nazareth lives for you, as he **aid** for my two brothers Edward and Robert. Jesus of Nazareth died for you, as he did for ray mother and father. Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the **dead** for you, as he did for me and all mankind.

Recall what the angelic messenger said to those fearful women: "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, he is not here -- see the place where they laid him." For Easter is not merely saying something about the extension of this life, but the glorious creation of a new life.

What a glorious life can be ours!  
What a glorious life **we** still have with him!  
For now we know the truth of it:  
Now who do you say I am?  
"He is the risen Lord!"

It was not the end at all, but just the beginning. This beginning, in which the only begotten Son of God overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life, that we might be raised from the death of *sin* by the life-giving Spirit of God, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Novice Br. Bernard Francis LaReau is on mission to the parish of St. Luke's in Madison, Wisconsin. He teaches third grade at Mendota Elementary School, serves as resource person, and is on the Educational Improvements Committee. He has recently named to the Youth Commission of the Diocese of Milwaukee.



## EASTER—OUR COMMENCEMENT DAY

**Easter** is a God-given time for new beginnings. Considering our common worship as being the most vital and wonderful experience here on earth, this Easter ought to serve as a new beginning. Ever since Easter Day, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Christian worship has taken on new dimensions. We sing about our Redeemer and his kingdom. We met him at the Holy Table in Communion. There we live with him and rejoice in the Communion of Saints --- the whole redeemed family of God -- both on earth and in heaven.

Easter ought to stand out on the Christian calendar as the day of new beginnings in Christian living. It should also mark the beginnings of new avenues of service to those in need. We ought to see Christ in our needy brothers and sisters as the Christ of today, the Christ of the Church and of Christian love and concern here and now.

Easter as our commencement day ought to fill our hearts with hope. We who believe in the living Christ can sing and pray, as well as serve, with peace and joy, in the blessed assurance that God's kingdom will come and that his will is being done, in us, by him. We take part in the blessed fulfillment of the promises about the kingdom, in "righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Richard Thomas Biernacki, BSG  
Superior General

## COMMUNITY NOTES

MOUNT VERNON VA: **Novice Br. Thomas Martin Little**, recently appointed Pastoral Associate for Evangelism at St. James Parish, recently gave a presentation on the Brotherhood during a parish discussion hour.

BERWICK PA: **Br. Thaddeus David Williams** is teaching a course in calligraphy, and is preparing to start class the Diocesan School of Christian Studies.

BOWIE MD: **Br. Edward Munro**, who is officiating at Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during Lent at Holy Trinity Parish, is also leading a Bible study group at the Bowie Senior Citizen Center.

ROCKVILLE MD: **Br. John Nidecker**, still recovering from his lung surgery but up and about, assisted at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at Christ Church on Ash Wednesday.

NEW YORK NY: **Br. Tobias Stanislas Haller**, joined by Music Director William Entriken, played a prelude of his own composition, Prelude and Fugue on 'Amazing Grace,' at the Church of St. Luke in the Field . . . **Br. John Peter Clark** hosted a Quiet Day at his parish, St. Augustine's, on the Lower East Side. Meditations by **Brs. John Peter, Stephen Storen, and James Teets**; the three day offices; the Eucharist, celebrated by the rector, the Rev. Errol Harvey; and the reading of a poem based on Ecclesiastes formed the activities of a very rich and full day, which was shared by several parishioners.



**APRIL INTERCESSIONS**

2. The Rt. Rev. Philip A. Smith
3. The Rev. Grant R. Sherk
5. Calvary/St. George's Church, New York NY  
The Community of the Way of the Cross
7. The Community of the Resurrection
8. Br. Augustine James Baird, BSG
11. The Oratory of the Little Way
15. The Rev. J. Norman Hall
18. The Rt. Rev. William G. Black
22. The Most Rev. John M. Allin  
The Very Rev. Richard L. Stinson
25. St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral, Hastings NE
28. Br. Thaddeus David Williams. BSG  
The Oratory of the Good Shepherd 30.  
The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity

**For the ill:**

Br. John Nidecker, BSG	Gaetano Sanfilipo	William O'Brien
Lyle Bernet	Christian W. Flohr III	Louise Salsano
	Irving Diaz	

**For the departed:**

Charlotte B. Morgan	Sophie Pearlmutter	Ada Helen Fildes
George Hinds	Sr. Beatrice Anne, CSM	Edna Irvin
Sr. Mary Magdalen Brogan, OSS	Sr. Mary Martha Walsh, OSS	
	Bob	

**Special Intentions for:**

The Rev. E. A. St. John	Richard Belanger
The Visitation Nuns	The Sacramentine Nuns
Karl E. Sorg	Marie & Tom
Jeff and Naomi	

The recovery of Fr. Bond from surgery  
The solemn profession of Br. Walter Hund in the Third Order Regular of  
St. Francis of Penance (RC}  
The birth of Jaime Nicole Humphrey  
The 25th Anniversary of the ordination of The Rt. Rev J. Stuart  
Wetmore to the episcopate