

# *SAGE-ING AGE-ING NEWSLETTER*

*APRIL 2021 ISSUE 4*

## **Easter/Spring Reflections...**

Jesus quietly and unobtrusively slipped from death into life. St. Matthew describes an angel arriving at Jesus' tomb like an earth-shaking bolt of lightning, no one observed or even claimed to have witnessed the Resurrection itself. People see the empty tomb, they encounter the risen Jesus, but the Resurrection was a quiet, unobtrusive affair. It happened without anyone knowing it. It happened without anyone even realizing that it could happen.

In 2021 our more subdued celebration of Easter invites us to linger in the stillness of the tomb and to ponder the ways in which life-giving actions are often hidden from us. Lightning bolts don't herald the work of so many others. Figures in radiant dress don't announce that people are keeping careful distance from each other or buying groceries for at-risk neighbors. These are quiet, unobtrusive ways in which people participate in giving life to the world. Although we are still in the midst of a pandemic, and new threats will always confront us, there is much we celebrate this Easter, much for which we raise our voices and proclaim ALLELUIA!

Whatever the circumstances, Easter greets us with joy, and we come together to rejoice, for Jesus has risen from the dead! We give thanks, for it is through his example that we learn that new life can come from death and death is not the end.

No matter where we have been, no matter what we have or will endure, Jesus' life, death and resurrection will continually serve as a reminder of God's unending love for each one of us. And God will always be at our side.

The beginning of this Easter season invites us to look beyond Easter Sunday and further reflect on how we can serve as living "witnesses of all that Jesus did." When we witness an injustice or are made aware of a policy or practice that does not honor human dignity or the sanctity of life, when we are called to respond in a way that Jesus would, with compassion, forgiveness and mercy, can we still rejoice and give thanks to God, knowing that we may be met with opposition or retaliation? God is with us. We rejoice with gratitude for the many "Easter moments" that have already taken place within us.

**Easter Wishes to YOU!**

*May the glory  
and the promise  
of this joyous time of year  
bring peace  
and happiness to you  
and those you hold most dear.  
and may Christ,  
Our Risen Savior,  
always be there by your side  
to bless you  
most abundantly  
and be your loving guide.  
We remember all the deceased  
Of our family who live now  
In Christ and who await  
the final and glorious  
Resurrection of the dead.  
ALLELUIA!  
HAPPY EASTER!  
Editor  
Jane Zoltek, ssj-tosf  
NAMASTE!*

# SIGNS OF SPRING...

Today we reflect on how our spiritual life also has a season of Spring which is characterized by new beginnings. We experience a new energy, a feeling of joy and creativity. It's a time for some spring cleaning, getting rid of the baggage that we have accumulated and no longer need.

We remember that God is all and everything else is nothing. We need to let go of our own plans and let God be God in our lives. Spring is the time to sweep the floor of our souls so that we get rid of all the dust that so easily collects.

It's a time to open the windows and let in some fresh air. After all the activity of summer, fall and winter, we need to sit down and recall that God is all: everything is nothing.

Maybe we spend too much time in one area. There has to be a room where our memories are stored. It is full of drawers and resembles a large closet. The drawers hold events of our past Ministries, people we worked with who have loved us, people we have loved, experiences of God, moments of suffering and loss...and even a drawer that is for bad memories, regrets that we lock up and keep locked! We ask God to empty that drawer. Our imagination keeps things in order so that our soul can be a peaceful place.

Now, just go and open the windows and begin to enjoy Spring!

*Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and there are some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask God for the gift of His perspective which beckons us to expectation, hope and rebirth.*

*May the sunlight and rain be reminders to you that God is at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, He is ever at work in our daily lives too. We pray that God open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring 2021 and ask that we may awaken to new life and perspective.*

***The celebration of Christ's resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the Easter Liturgy and the music. It is beyond the sign of spring, beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.***

***Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph, light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.***

## Celebrate YOU!

**Celebrate your laugh. It's unique, one-of-a-kind sound that comes from you alone!**

**Celebrate your smile. Every time you pass a mirror, smile at yourself. Confirm that joy does live inside you.**

**Celebrate your victories over all the bumpy parts of life.**

**Celebrate the child who still lives inside of you.**

**Celebrate the moment you are in. It will never come again. Even if it feels unpleasant, welcome the experience it gives you to grow.**

**Celebrate and use the good stuff. Use the fine china. Drink from fancy glasses. Today is worth celebrating.**

**Celebrate planet Earth. We have the best planet of all. Water and weather. Trees and toads. Wind and rain. As Michael Singer says: Earth is God's version of Disney. Enjoy the ride!** (Quoted from Regina Brett's Facebook)

***Remember to pray for our President...***

***We ask your special blessings each and every day on our President. Working with him, may we strive to make this great country of ours a beacon of hope and justice in a world hungry for peace.***

**Smile:** A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it carefully. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found" "What?" "I think it's Adam's underwear!"