

## Second Sunday of Easter

This Sunday's first reading is one of the descriptions of ideal apostolic life. It begins with the community being one in heart and mind. They not only believed in the same Risen Lord, but their love for him showed in their love for each other. They were not just a community or parish; they were one family.

Acts shows two ways the Christian communities began to change the world. First, they told anyone who would listen about the Resurrection "with great power" (Acts 4:33). We can take that as power to perform miracles, healing, etc., but it can also mean the power of conviction. Christians were so excited about Jesus' resurrection that they couldn't stop talking about it. We could use some of that fervor today. I sometimes think the only reason we don't perform miracles ourselves is that we don't really believe we could. God can perform miracles at will, but we can't receive them if we don't have faith. Instead of trying to believe that you can perform a miracle, try believing that God can do it for you.

The disciples also stood out by their willingness to give up everything for the Lord. Luke uses the example of selling their property in order to share the proceeds with those in need. But some went even further, giving up their lives for the faith. That kind of witness says that nothing can make me give up my faith. So what am I willing to give up for the Lord? It's easy to throw money into a collection for the poor. How about giving some time to feed the hungry, or help build a home for someone, or maybe to be a sponsor for a catechumen? The love you show to others could be their only experience of God's love.

- J. S. Paluch Co.

## Recognizing the Voice of the Lord - Agnes P. Raj



Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni," which means Teacher. Jn 20:16

Happy Easter! Christ is risen and we are called to rise with him into a new life. These last few weeks and especially last week we were prayerfully preparing for this Easter celebration. Preparation is over, reception has just began. We are given the opportunity to recognize that Jesus is alive, and Jesus is with us now. The question is, how are we going to recognize Him?

Mary turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?"

Jesus is asking each one of us the same question as He asked Mary Magdalene. Mary very quickly recognized Jesus, when He pronounced her name. Will we be able to recognize Jesus when He calls our name today?

Jesus said to her, "Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father - Jn 20:17. Mary was still not completely sure. So she does what most of us would do in her place. She reached out and touched Jesus. Only then the tremendous joy of that moment came over her. Mary was so full of

joy that she clinged on to Jesus and doesn't want to let go of Him.

We would also like to hold on to Him, when we recognize Him. But he would say to us, "Do not cling to me, my real presence is in your community, in your homes, and within your own emptinesses".

We can recognize the risen Lord in our community, in breaking the bread with our community, in sharing the good news, in serving each other and the poor.

We may recognize his presence at our home and in our hearts, in the joy, peace, hope, faith, suffering, sickness, poverty, loneliness and even in death of our beloved ones.

We can recognize Him in our emptinesses. Christ emptied himself unto death to be fully human. If we also empty out our shame, guilt, ego, anger, regret and make room for His love, we can recognize Him.

We can also experience the great joy of the Resurrection in this Easter Season by imagining ourselves in the place of Mary Magdalene outside the tomb of Jesus. Try to experience the joy that she had, when she recognized Jesus. Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia !

**International Food Festival:** St. Joseph's International Festival is from May 11 - 13, 2012. BATCC, like last year will have a food booth. Volunteers are welcome to help out during the festival. Please click [here](#) to sign up as volunteers.

**Location:** St. Joseph's School, 1120 Miramonte Ave, Mountain View, CA 94040

**When:** May 11 - 13, 2012



## Judgement Criteria

- Leenus Rich

We all know one day we will be judged according to what we did in this world but there might be lots of questions in our mind. We know we will be judged according to good and bad but how do we define good and how do we define bad?

Jesus tells us below how He would separate us.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of

these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” (Matthew 25:31-46)

Jesus will not ask how many days in a week we went to church or how many hours in a day we prayed or how many days we fasted. It does not mean we should not go to church, pray or fast but our church visit, pray and fast should lead us to feed the hungry, to give a drink to the thirsty, to clothe a needy and to take care of a stranger. Otherwise our spirituality will be only in words not in actions and on the judgment day Jesus will tell us “Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.”

Let us examine ourselves whether our spirituality lies on the actions and take us to the right hand side of the Jesus and to the eternal life.

## WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER?

Writing for the newsletter is a rewarding way to contribute to our BATCC community. Members are encouraged to submit articles of interest directly to BATCC Board ([board@tamilcatholic.org](mailto:board@tamilcatholic.org)). Personal transitions like marriages, babies, awards, college admissions, etc. are also welcomed. Accompanying digital photos and other artwork are strongly encouraged. A# articles, transitions and photos are subject to editing, available space, and the acceptance policy.

## May Mass

The May Tamil mass has been moved to the third Saturday (May 19, 2012) instead of the regular second Saturday due to the international Festival at St. Joseph's.

## Altar Server Training

The altar server occupies a privileged place in the liturgical celebration. When altar servers serve at Mass, they experience firsthand that Jesus Christ is present and active in every liturgical act. Therefore, in the liturgy, they are much more than simple "helpers of the priest". Above all, they are servers of Jesus Christ, of the eternal High Priest. Thus, the altar servers, are called "young friends of Jesus".

BATCC is organizing Altar Server training for all eligible children. If your child is receiving Holy Communion and is interested in Altar Serving, please let them participate in the training.

The training is scheduled to take place on Sat, May 19th in the church basement. Please check with Joe Natar (408-418-8042 or [jbnatar@yahoo.com](mailto:jbnatar@yahoo.com)) for details.

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