



# Bringing Home the Word

Easter Sunday (B)  
March 31, 2024

## Seeing Is Believing

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

**C**lever phrase. But is it accurate? Believing means that we sometimes accept as true something for which we have no positive proof. We might base our belief on the word of someone we consider reliable, but we ourselves have no undeniable evidence. We may use this phrase in everyday conversation and know what we really mean, but when it comes to the resurrection of Jesus, the phrase “seeing is believing” really doesn’t fit well.

In today’s first reading, Peter states that Jesus was visible to some of his followers. What does this mean? It’s clear from most of the Easter narratives

that many people had a profound, life-transforming experience of the risen Jesus. They may not have realized this at first, but they were convinced of it when he allowed them to recognize him. Was it a visual experience? Was it auditory as Paul describes (Acts 9:4)? Or was it touch as Thomas demanded (John 20:25)? Every mystic describes a revelation of Christ as an experience of one or more senses. Saint Bernadette saw our Lady; St. Francis heard a voice. This isn’t to say that the revelations weren’t real. It is to say that our senses are our only way of experiencing it or talking about it. We are, after all, only human. Maybe when referring to the resurrection we should modify this phrase: believing is seeing or hearing or feeling or being somehow convinced that he is really here. And this can be true for all of us. †

## Sunday Readings

**Acts 10:34a, 37–43**

[Peter said,] “He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge.”

**Colossians 3:1–4 or  
1 Corinthians 5:6b–8**

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

**John 20:1–9**

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

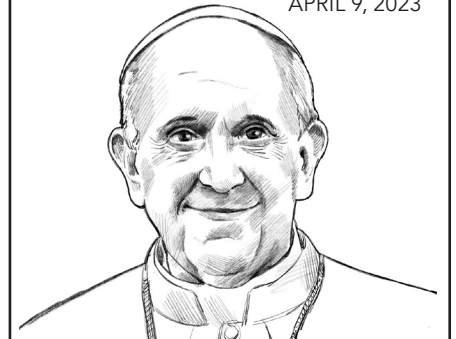


*It’s clear from most of the Easter narratives that many people had a profound, life-transforming experience of the risen Jesus.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

Brothers, sisters, may we rediscover the enjoyment of the journey, quicken the heartbeat of hope and experience a foretaste of the beauty of heaven! Today, let us summon the energy to advance in goodness towards Goodness itself, which never disappoints.... Today let us believe and profess: “Christ is truly risen from the dead!”

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME,  
APRIL 9, 2023



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have you ever had a moment of profound religious insight?
- The risen Christ is with us still; have you experienced him?

# Daily Resurrections

Ron Rolheiser, OFM

What the resurrection of Jesus promises is that things can always be new again. It's never too late to start over. Nothing is irrevocable. No betrayal is final. No sin is unforgivable. Every form of death can be overcome. There isn't any loss that can't be redeemed. Every day is virgin. The resurrection assures us that God never gives up on us, even if we give up on ourselves, and that we can regain lost innocence and move beyond bitterness. When Jesus breathes out forgiveness on those who betray him and God raises bodies from the dead, we can begin to believe that in the end, all will be well, including our own lives. However, the challenge of living this out is not just that of believing that Jesus rose physically from the grave, but also,



and perhaps even more importantly, to believe that no matter our age, mistakes, betrayals, wounds, and deaths, we can begin each day afresh. No matter what we've done, our future

is forever pregnant with wonderful new possibility. Resurrection is not just about rising for one singular day after death, but it is also about daily rising from the many mini-graves within which we so often find ourselves.

We are human and cannot avoid falling—into depression, bitterness, sin, betrayal, cynicism, and the tiredness that comes with age. Like Jesus, we too will have our crucifixions. More than one grave awaits us. Yet our faith in the resurrection invites us to live beyond these. As John Shea so aptly put it: “What the resurrection teaches us is not how to live—but how to live again, and again, and again!” †

Source: *Daybreaks: Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter*, 2004

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From “We Believe in the Resurrection” by Thomas H. Groome

If ours is an Easter faith, then surely all is “changed, changed utterly.” Now no oppression can hold us bound, no evil can finally triumph, no cross is too heavy to carry, no trouble can rob us of hope, no sin can enslave us, no dependency is beyond recovery, no hurt is beyond healing. If we truly believe that “Christ is risen, risen indeed,” then, “neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38–39). †

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*Lord Jesus, make us people of the light and rise in us that we may be an Easter people, witnessing to your glory, we pray—Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

April 1–6

**Monday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 2:14, 22–33 / Mt 28:8–15

**Tuesday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 2:36–41 / Jn 20:11–18

**Wednesday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 3:1–10 / Lk 24:13–35

**Thursday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 3:11–26 / Lk 24:35–48

**Friday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 4:1–12 / Jn 21:1–14

**Saturday**, Octave of Easter:  
Acts 4:13–21 / Mk 16:9–15

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