

BASILICA BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of Our Lady of Penafrancia Basilica and National Shrine, Naga City, 4400 Philippines

April 8, 2012

www.penafrancia.net

EASTER SUNDAY



Easter Sunday

Msgr. Rodel Cajot

Each of the four evangelists has his own version of Christ's resurrection. Today, Easter Sunday, the Gospel reading is taken from the St. John and revolves around the story of the discovery that the body of Lord Jesus is no longer to be found in his tomb. But the focus of the narrative is not so much the discovery of the empty tomb, but the reaction of the disciple whom Jesus loved – when he saw that the Lord is no longer in his tomb. Verse 8 clearly states his reaction: he saw and believed.

Let us recall that the Gospel of St. John puts emphasis on the Lord's love for his



The Thirtieth Resurrection Appearance by Del Parson

Beloved Disciple, who is somehow the focal point of the meditation of St. John's gospel. The Beloved Disciple is present as the example to be imitated by all those who want to become followers of the Lord.

On the part of this disciple, we can be sure of how

great is his love for Jesus. We recall that in the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, the Beloved Disciple was seated beside the Lord; he was leaning on the Lord (John 13:23). When Jesus was crucified on Mount Calvary, this disciple was seen, along with the mother of Je-

sus and some women, standing by the foot of the cross (John 19:26).

The Beloved Disciple "saw and believed" because he was truly in love with the Lord. Any couple who truly love each other easily perceives and understands the presence, needs and feelings of one another. For this reason, the disciple who was closest to Jesus in his love for him was the first to look for him and the first to believe in his resurrection. He is our model of faith in the Lord's rising from the dead that we might receive eternal life. Our faith, therefore, springs forth from our great love of him, who suffered and died on the cross to save us from sin and resurrected to bring us new and everlasting life.

Daily Readings of the Week

April 8 Sun:	Acts 10:34-43/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9
April 9 Mon:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/ Mt 28:8-15
April 10 Tues:	Acts 2:36-41/ Jn 20:11-18
April 11 Wed:	Acts 3:1-10/ Lk 24:13-35
April 12 Thurs:	Acts 3:11-26/ Lk 24:35-48
April 13 Fri:	Acts 4:1-12/ Jn 21:1-14
April 14 Sat:	Acts 4:13-21/ Mk 16:9-15



Sunday Gospel

John 20: 1 - 9

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran, and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Peter then came out with the other disciple, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first; and stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then

Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; he saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin, which had been on his head, not lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not know the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

"Christ is Risen, Alleluia Alleluia!"

*"In resurrectione tua, Christe, coeli et terra laetentur!
In your resurrection, O Christ, let heaven and earth
rejoice!" (Liturgy of the Hours).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Rome and across the world,

Easter morning brings us news that is ancient yet ever new: Christ is risen! The echo of this event, which issued forth from Jerusalem twenty centuries ago, continues to resound in the Church, deep in whose heart lives the vibrant faith of Mary, Mother of Jesus, the faith of Mary Magdalene and the other women who first discovered the empty tomb, and the faith of Peter and the other Apostles.

Right down to our own time – even in these days of advanced communications technology – the faith of Christians is based on that same news, on the testimony of those sisters and brothers who saw firstly the stone that had been rolled away from the empty tomb and then the mysterious messen-

gers who testified that Jesus, the Crucified, was risen. And then Jesus himself, the Lord and Master, living and tangible, appeared to Mary Magdalene, to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and finally to all eleven, gathered in the Upper Room (cf. Mk 16:9-14).

The resurrection of Christ is not the fruit of speculation or mystical experience: it is an event which, while it surpasses history, nevertheless happens at a precise moment in history and leaves an indelible mark upon it. The light which dazzled the guards keeping watch over Jesus' tomb has traversed time and space. It is a different kind of light, a divine light, that has rent asunder the darkness of death and has brought to the world the splendour of God, the splendour of Truth and Goodness.

May heaven and earth rejoice at the witness of those who suffer

opposition and even persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. May the proclamation of his victorious resurrection deepen their courage and trust.

Dear brothers and sisters! The risen Christ is journeying ahead of us towards the new heavens and the new earth (cf. Rev 21:1), in which we shall all finally live as one family, as sons of the same Father. He is with us until the end of time. Let us walk behind him, in this wounded world, singing Alleluia. In our hearts there is joy and sorrow, on our faces there are smiles and tears. Such is our earthly reality. But Christ is risen, he is alive and he walks with us. For this reason we sing and we walk, faithfully carrying out our task in this world with our gaze fixed on heaven.

Happy Easter to all of you!

(Excerpt of the Easter Message)

REFLECTION

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS AND EASTER



After forty days of preparing for Easter, as we read, prayed, and studied God's word during Lent, we were not merely reading for information or inspiration. We read to grow

in faith, for faith comes through hearing and hearing through the word of God (Rm 10:17). With our faith growing deeper, we are preparing to make the greatest act of faith: the renewal of our baptismal promises.

When we see that all the roads of Lent lead to the renewal of our baptismal promises, we understand that a "good Lent" does not merely mean that we've gone to Confession and have been faithful to our Lenten practices. This is a necessary start, but a good Lent also means:

1. I have repented of all sin in my life and have gone to Confession. Despite my weakness, by God's grace, I've committed myself to

obeying the Lord. Therefore, I can renounce Satan and be protected from his retaliation (see Acts 19:13 ff). I can use my authority over him and bring down his strongholds.

2. The extent of my penitential practices has put me in a position where I obviously needed God's practical help immediately. My heavenly Father has fathered me, and I now have a deeper faith than ever before.

3. God's word is burning inside me (Lk 24:32). My communication with God is better than ever and my faith is stronger than ever.

If the Lord has His way, the renewal of our baptismal promises on Easter Sunday will be the greatest act of faith of our lives. Even if we previously have totally committed our lives to the Father, Son, and Spirit, this Easter's renewal of our baptismal promises should not be a re-run. The love which God has poured out on our lives since last Easter should bear fruit in the deepest expression of faith in God that we have ever made.

In preparation for the renewal of your baptismal promises, review the six questions of the baptismal promises.

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Response: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Response: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Response: I do.

Celebrant: **Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?**

Response: I do.

Celebrant: **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?**

Response: I do.

Celebrant: **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?**

Response: I do.

Now renew your baptismal promises. Answer "I do" to each of the six questions. Renewing these promises is a way of making a total commitment of our lives to God. This is the most important decision a human being can make. Give your life to the Lord. Decide to live for Him and not for yourself (2 Cor 5:15). Respond to His total love with your total love. After making this new act of faith, you will notice major changes in your life.

BAPTISM IS ENLIGHTENMENT

Z. Babilonia

Baptism comes from the Greek word *photismos*, which means enlightenment. So, when we were baptized (or re baptized) we were enlightened – we were reborn, more specifically on our faith with God.

With our faith, enable us to see what is good and what is bad, thus, for us to evade evil things and choose the right path. With our faith, we can see how God give us His grace . . . how He carry us through his son Jesus and the intercession of Mary, our Ina in time of our distress. Because if our faith, we always believe there is hope in every difficulties and failures we encounter in life.

Being able to see all these goodness of the Lord is one gift we receive as Christians when we were baptized. Goodness is the light that will lead us from darkness (evils) and being in the right path means an everlasting life up there, when we join our Creator.

Rite of Blessing of a Child in Womb



The Vatican has approved the publication of the "Rite for the Blessing of a Child in the Womb," which will be printed in English and Spanish, according to a press release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

It will be published as a com-

bined booklet and should be available for parishes by Mothers' Day.

The approval came from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome.

"I'm impressed with the beauty of this blessing for human life in the womb," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the USC-CB.

"I can think of no better day to announce this news than on the feast of the Annunciation, when we remember Mary's 'yes' to God and the incarnation of that child in her the womb that saved the world."

Pope's Intention for April; Prays for Libya



Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for April is: "That many young people may hear the call of Christ and follow Him in the priest-

hood and religious life".

His mission intention is: "That the risen Christ may be a sign of certain hope for the men and women of the African continent".

Pope Benedict XVI offered an Easter prayer Sunday for

diplomacy to prevail over warfare in Libya and for citizens of the Middle East to build a new society based on respect.

He also called on Europeans to welcome refugees from North Africa.

"In heaven, all is peace and gladness. But, alas, all is not so on earth!" the pope lamented as he delivered the traditional "Urbi et Orbi" message from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to a crowd of more than 100,000 that overflowed from St. Peter's Square.

"In the current conflict in Libya, may diplomacy and dialogue replace arms, and may those who suffer as a result of the conflict be given access to humanitarian aid," he said.

Caceres Seminarians' Summer Mission

The Caceres Commission on Missions held its Training-Workshop for the Caceres Mission Teams last March 22- 24, 2012 at the Caceres Catechetical Center, Basilica Compound, Naga City. Attended by 36 seminarians, the said Training-Workshop started with an overview of the Summer Mission Program.

They will have their summer mission starting April 10, 2012 at Tapayas Balatan CS and at Caglillog, Tinambac CS.

SEMINAR FOR ALL WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEOGRAPHERS

The Commission on Worship and the Caceres Commission on Communications will conduct an accreditation seminar for all wedding photographers and videographers on April 23, 2012 at 8:00am- 12:00noon at the Basilica Minore Hall.

Fr. Glenn Ruiz and Fr. Luisito A. Occiano will be the speakers.

A registration fee of P200 will be charged to cover the ID, kit and snacks of the participants.

Archdiocesan News

Caceres Hosts Chancellors National Convention

The Archdiocese of Caceres, through its Chancery Office, is hosting the 8th National Convention of Diocesan Chancellors of the Philippines on April 11-14, 2012 at the Avenue Plaza Hotel, Naga City. The theme of the said event is "Connecting Diocesan Structures through Cyberspace."

A yearly gathering, the convention aims to create not only the framework but also the foundation of a stable and continuing

development program for Diocesan Chancellors. In addition, it serves as an avenue for networking and communication among the Chancellors.

Thus, the convention consists of seminars on Chancery Management and tours around the historical places of the host city. Directed under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Allan Roy Remo, Chancellor of the Archdiocese, the working committees have already started preparing for the said national event.

BASILICA NEWS

PEÑAFRANCIA DE MAYO 2012

On the occasion of the 30th Year of the Dedication of the Basilica of Our Lady of Peñafrancia
Archdiocesan Pilgrimage and Flores de Mayo

7:00 AM every Saturday of May

- May 5: Rinconada District
- May 12: Partido District
- May 19: Bay District
- May 26: Central District

INA's Visit to the Naga City People's Mall

May 22 (Tuesday)

- 6:00 pm Candlelight Procession from Basilica to People's Mart)
- Mass after the Procession
- Vigil

May 23 (Wednesday)

- Mass (2nd day of Triduum)
- Confessions of candidates for Confirmation and their parents

May 24 (Thursday)

- Confirmation
- Mass (3rd day of Triduum)
- Confessions of couples for Marriage validation

May 25 (Friday)

- Mass for the Fiesta sa People's Mall (with Marriage Validation)
- Baptism
- Fluvial Procession (From People's Mart to Basilica via Naga River)
- Mass after the Fluvial Procession

30th Dedication Anniversary of the Basilica and Santacruzian Procession

May 26 (Saturday)

- Coronation Rites of Reyna Elena 2012
- Solemn Pontifical Mass
- Ground Breaking Rites for the Museo de Peñafrancia
- Santacruzian Procession

May 27 (Sunday)

Medical & Dental Mission (for Children only)



THANK YOU VERY MUCH
TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED
AND HELPED US DURING THE
HOLY WEEK

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