

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

MARCH 30, 2008

“BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN AND HAVE BELIEVED.”

—John 20:29b



A SEASON OF JOY

“They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). This first line of today’s first reading sets the tone as this fifty-day celebration of Easter opens before us. Today we listen to the teachings of three apostles—Luke, Peter, and John—who remind us that even though we have not seen Christ, we nonetheless are filled with joy as we place our belief in his saving death and resurrection. Each week during the Easter season we will gather as a community of faith to find strength and support from our God and from one another. Each week we will gather to break bread and offer the great prayer of thanksgiving, actions that will manifest the very presence of the risen Christ in our midst. Let us be open to the wonders of this season of joy.

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EASTER THANKSGIVING...

Thank you to all the people who attended our Stations of the Cross on the Monday evenings of Lent. Thanks to the soup and bread providers and all of the people who helped set up and clean up. Our soup supper free-will offerings totaled \$823! Donations will soon be sent to Catholic Charities, St. Luke’s Shower program and the Congregational Homeless program.

We also thank our presiders, our liturgical ministers, musicians, environment committee, RCIA team and all those who prepared and participated in our Holy Week liturgies. The beauty of our sanctuary and the solemnity of the Triduum liturgies were a source of inspiration to all. Thank you very much!

A YEAR-LONG THANK YOU FROM PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

Peace and Justice would like to thank everyone who supported their projects during 2007. Thanks to your generosity the following donations were made: \$100 for Comunidad Christmas certificates; \$100 for the Get on the Bus Prison Ministry; \$615 for the Sisters of the Holy Names Mission in Lesotho; \$200 for grocery cards; \$515 for Catholic Charities; \$515 for Heifer International; \$50 for Catholic Charities; \$82 for postage for offering of letters and Prison Ministries and \$60 for Back-to-School backpacks.



MYSTAGOGIA

The term “*mystagogia*” is indeed a mystery to most Catholics, even to those in RCIA who are involved in this fourth phase of Christian Initiation. You may remember that the first three stages are called “*Inquiry*” (when those who are searching for God and membership in the church come to “inquire”) the “*Catechumenate*” (when the unbaptized and candidates participate in reflection on the Sunday readings and in catechesis, and “*Purification and Enlightenment*” (when the elect participate in intense preparation for the Easter Vigil.)

The fourth phase of Christian Initiation, “*Mystagogy*” means guiding into mystery, the great mystery of the unfathomable love of God in Christ. This happens primarily during the whole Easter season, the great 50 days before Pentecost. The neophytes (persons newly baptized) continue mystagogy by attending monthly meetings for a year and by continuing to grow in their understanding of the mystery of God’s love. Since we are all continuing to experience the profound mystery of God’s love for us, we are *all* participating in mystagogy until the time when we behold God, face to face.

COMUNIDAD MEETING

Comunidad will meet this Tuesday at 7:00p.m. in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall. The producer, Robin Voss will join us to present her acclaimed documentary, “*For the Bible Tells Me So.*” It will be the first-ever screening of the film for a Catholic group. Friends and family of all faiths are welcome to join us for this very special event. Due to the film’s running time, we will start the screening promptly at 7:00 p.m. Popcorn will be provided.

...REFLECTIONS...

The readings for the Third Sunday of Easter are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14, 22-23

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 1:17-21

GOSPEL: Luke 24: 13-35

1) When have I been depressed or disappointed like the disciples on the road? When am I like them after they recognized Jesus? What role did my faith play in that experience?

2) When am I called upon to be as Jesus was with the disciples? To listen to someone who is suffering emotionally or physically or to invite someone to share hospitality?