

May 5, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH EASTER

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GOOD NEWS, INDEED!

By Sister Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Excerpt from Today's Reading

*God raised him from the dead,
and for many days he appeared to those
who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem.
These are now his witnesses before the people.
We ourselves are proclaiming this good news to you....*

ACTS 13:30-32

Reflection

For some unknown reason, I find myself more aware this year that Easter is celebrated far beyond Easter Sunday. The fifty-day Easter Season is longer than our Lenten journey of forty days. Easter is central to Christianity so the accounts of personal meetings with Jesus serve an essential purpose.

The apostles and disciples stood in faith-filled wonder and awe at the resurrection of Jesus. They also waffled between doubt, fear, and confusion at

such a miraculous event. Jesus is alive then, now, and forever! Resurrection boggles my mind and stirs my soul!

Perhaps Jesus remained physically available and appeared so often to allow the first disciples to grapple with the reality of the resurrection that cannot be explained. Resurrection, like creation, is the dynamic work of God's great love among us. How it happened is not the point. The miraculous rising from the dead is pure gift to those it is given to believe.

While confusing to many and a matter of faith for countless people to this day, we are to claim for ourselves the resurrection of Jesus, just as the disciples did. By recounting the stories of encounter, pausing to ponder and pray, soul space makes room for faith to take hold of our minds and hearts. A personal encounter with the Risen One is essential.

Pondering the many post-resurrection appearances gives us the opportunity to find ourselves embraced in the resurrection. Gradually, the risen Jesus makes his home in our hearts. We in turn become *"his witnesses before the people."* The manner we choose to live our lives proclaims the Good News. The pondering is never done, Easter grace flows in abundance. This is Good News, indeed!



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For Pondering

- Which is your favorite post-resurrection encounter?
 - How have you encountered the Risen Jesus?
 - What difference does your faith make in your life?
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Closing Prayer

Come Spirit of the Risen Jesus, open me to receive your life-giving presence in my life. I desire to know you more alive in my life. I seek to see you in the ordinary people and circumstances in which I live. Deepen my faith in you so my life proclaims you and your ways that stir up love and goodness and truth. Please grace me with God's abiding love and presence. Amen!

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