

May 3, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

TODOS, TODOS, TODOS (EVERYONE, EVERYONE, EVERYONE)

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

“That is the church, the mother of all: there is room for all.”

POPE FRANCIS, WORLD YOUTH DAY, AUGUST 2023

Reflection

This year, I recorded the Easter Mass from the Vatican. There is just something special about attending services, albeit delayed and televised, at the Mother Church. Sadly, after a very full Easter gathering, I fell asleep early, exhausted from the day ... not able to stay awake through the Mass. The following morning, on turning on my phone, the familiar sound of a text storm rang out and it was then I learned of the passing of Pope Francis. The stunning news

poured over me with deep lament and uncertainty. Finding my bearings, I felt it appropriate to sit with the recorded Easter service.

While Francis did not serve at the Mass, he had prepared the homily. Focusing on the reading where Mary Magdalene and Peter and John all ran to search for Jesus, Francis continued, “He, in fact, has risen from the dead and therefore is no longer in the tomb. We must look for him elsewhere.” Continuing, Francis invites us to look for Jesus in all of life and all people -- amid the ordinary. Easter calls us to action, to be on the lookout for Jesus and the promise of the Resurrection.

Francis connected this Easter quest to the Jubilee Year of Hope. “The Jubilee invites us to renew the gift of hope within us, to surrender our sufferings and our concerns to hope, to share it with those whom we meet along our journey and to entrust to hope the future of our lives and the destiny of the human family ... we must run, filled with joy. Let us run towards Jesus.”

Yesterday, I mourned with the globe attending the funeral of our beloved Holy Father. The significance of his passing and celebration during Eastertide is striking and just seems right. And the diverse gathering of humanity was certainly representative of “Todos, Todos, Todos.” In my mind’s eye I can see Francis bounding after Jesus on his way up the heavenly ladder, extending his hand for all of us to follow. May his memory be a blessing; the time we were shepherded by Francis was incredible: loving, prophetic, inclusive, a Church filled with welcome, hope and joy.



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For Prayer

Dear brothers and sisters,

In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever (cf. Easter Sequence). He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. Rev. 21:5)!

Happy Easter to everyone!

FROM THE URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS, EASTER 2025

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