

**Believing in Possibilities – We Are an Easter People!**

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Let's read the room . . . observe the signs of the times . . . frustration, depression, anxiety, anger . . . aggression, occupation, oppression, violence, lack of tolerance and of justice and consequently, a lack of peace.

I am describing the world over two thousand years ago; a world into which Jesus was born, grew and shouldered the mantle of his ministry to bring the *Good News*. He brought light and love to a dark, troubled world.

I could just as easily be describing today's world, as illustrated by the international news this morning. Over two thousand years of human history and I ask you, "What have we learned? How have we changed?"

We are so blessed that the church offers us an annual reminder of our salvation story. We have short memories and old habits are hard to break. We need the calisthenics of repetition to help whip us into shape.

Pastoral Council  
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Holy Scripture – the Word of God – we need to read it, internalize it, let it feed us spiritually.

**“One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.” – Matthew 4:4b**

We need to read God’s love letter to his people, to come to know deep within our soul, that He loves each and every one of us!

We need to have a hefty dose of reality, at least three meals of it daily. **God is God, and we are NOT!** The more we come to know our God, the better the GOOD NEWS becomes. Let’s face it, you and I wouldn’t do a very good job at being God. We are the creation . . . not the Creator.

**“Here, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!” – Deuteronomy 6:4**

As Christians, we are followers of Christ. What does that mean to us? Do we really understand that when we were baptized, we entered into both the death of Christ and his resurrection? What does this mean for our lives?

It means that we should not live as the unbelievers do. We are called to live renewed in the spirit and to become and build the body of Christ on earth. We are called to be his hands and feet, his shoulder to cry on, his hand to lift another up, a person who offers compassion, care, wise counsel, encouragement, affirmation and hope to those placed into our lives by our Lord, himself.

**“Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another...No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edifications, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, compassionate,**

**“forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.” – Ephesians 4:25, 29-32.**

The world is in a state of hurt. That’s not something new. We live in a fallen world but we know that our God lives! We’ve lived through the events of Friday, and in the reality of Easter Sunday, we are able to call it “Good Friday.” Not because the events of that day were good; but rather, because we now know the depth of Jesus’s love for us because of his “Yes” to the horror of that day.

The world, today, is a hard place to live. From worldwide pandemics, flailing economies, escalating crime, etc., desperation and depression run rapid through our society, especially among our youth and young adults.

We all know the scriptures **1 Corinthians 12:1—14:11** that speak of the Gifts of the Spirit and the One Body with Many Parts. If we take these words to heart, we will realize that we come together at Mass as *One Body, Christ’s Body*. We may come to Mass for ourselves, to feed ourselves spiritually for the upcoming week, but we also come together for the rest of the body! We come together to worship as Jesus taught us. We come together to share our sorrows and our joys, to share the journey with our fellow Christians . . . the others that complete the body of Christ.

**“So with yourselves: since you strive eagerly for spirits, seek to have an abundance of them for building up the church”. 1 Corinthians 14:12**

How well would your body work if your eye, or your hand, or your foot decided that it wasn’t getting enough out of being connected to your body, so it just dropped off your body? When you don’t come to participate in our celebrations, our entire body suffers the loss of you. *You can’t get anything out of something you don’t put anything into.* You will never win the lottery if you never buy a ticket. You will never feel the full grace of a full Christian life if you don’t fully participate in it.

The events in the world can be, and often are, very scary, but we need to remember what happened after Good Friday . . . we are an Easter People and Jesus conquered the world and death, itself. God still reigns!

***“Here, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!” – Deuteronomy 6:4***

We know the end of the story . . . *we know who wins*. Now let's get on board with helping one another to finish the journey and to bring Christ's body to the entire world. With God all things are possible – that's part of the Easter message.

Please join your prayers with mine that the Lord's peace, tolerance, justice, acceptance, compassion and love will flood across the land and into people's hearts. We need you Lord, now more than ever. Please Holy Spirit, come refresh our hearts and our lands. My prayer for you this Easter Season:

***“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***

***Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen”-Ephesians 3:14-21.***

***May you all enjoy a wonderful, safe, healthy and blessed Easter Season!***

## **In Jesus Name (God of Possible) By Katy Nichole**

I speak the name of Jesus over you  
In your hurting, in your sorrow  
I will ask my God to move  
I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do  
In desperation, I'll seek Heaven  
And pray this for you

I pray for your healing  
That circumstances would change  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen today  
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name  
In Jesus name

I speak the name of all authority  
Declaring blessings, every promise  
He is faithful to keep  
I speak the name no grave could ever hold  
He is greater, He is stronger  
He's the God of possible

I pray for your healing  
That circumstances would change  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen today  
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name  
In Jesus name

Come believe it  
Come receive it  
Oh, the power of His Spirit is now forever yours  
Come believe it  
Come receive it  
In the mighty name of Jesus, all things are possible

I pray for your healing  
That circumstances will change  
I pray that the fear inside will flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough  
Would happen today  
I pray miracles over your life in Jesus name  
I pray for revival  
For restoration of faith  
I pray that the dead will come alive in Jesus name  
In Jesus name.

## CHURCH

For some time, I have been troubled about empty pews. Not just in our church but also in the churches that I had hoped my family members and friends would have been attending. Where is everybody?

Each day I have been praying for our churches. Praying that they would stand strong against the pressures of people wanting their church to be 'more everything' than what they perceive it to be. Praying that it would stand firm on doctrine and praying for true vocations so that we would have priests to lead us in worship and the miracle of Eucharist.

I wonder if I have been praying for the wrong thing.

Many, many years ago as I sat in my seat as a fifth grader our teacher wrote the word "CHURCH" on the blackboard. She stood back and asked us what is church?

We all tried many answers -trying to articulate just what church was: 'a building where we receive Communion', a place where the priest talks about scriptures. A place where we go on Sunday to talk to God.' All good answers for our limited 5<sup>th</sup> grade brains but Sister Andrea just shook her head and we all knew we had missed the 'best answer'.

She slowly went back to the blackboard and erased the 'CH' from the start of the word and the 'CH' from the end of the word. CH-UR CH. We were left with **UR**. She explained that "you are" the church. Each and every one of you. Without you it is just a building. Without you it isn't important.

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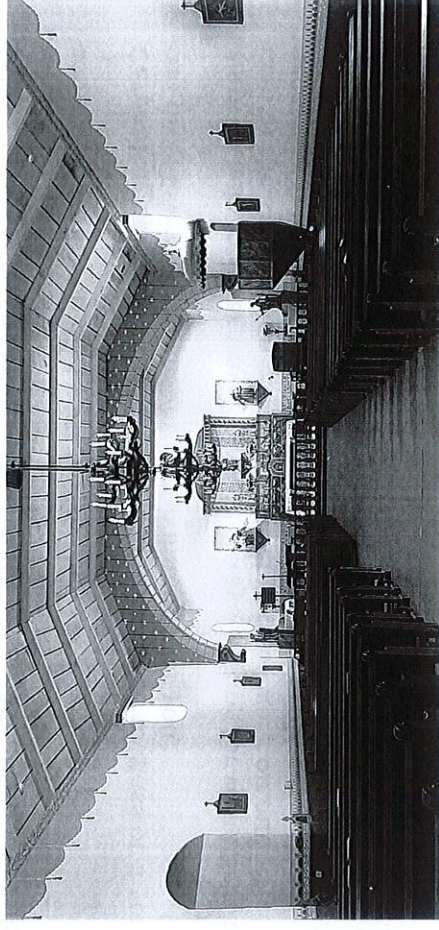
So, where is everybody?

Why are there empty pews each Sunday in churches all over the country? What 'god' has taken the place of the one God who should always be God alone? Do we make sleeping in more important than God? Or having something better to do? Something 'fun and entertaining' to do? A football/baseball/golf game that is being televised? What 'god' has taken the place of God?

Where is everybody?

I have decided to change my daily prayer from the 'Church' to the 'UR'. I have decided to pray for the "you" that is missing. I have also decided that maybe I shouldn't just rely on prayer alone but should, perhaps, be more proactive and start 'inviting' friends and family to join me for church. No pressure. Just an invitation.

Prayerful blessings, Georgia



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## Outreach Ministry

Mission San Antonio de Padua supports several outreach programs. We are looking for someone to help us grow this ministry. It won't take a lot of time; you do not need any training and you will be answering God's call to minister to your brothers and sisters.

### Programs:

**Communion Service for the Homebound:** Please let us know if you need communion brought to you. Receiving the Eucharist is fundamental to our Catholic beliefs.

**Prayer Circle:** Are you willing to pray for those in need? Do you need special prayer? The prayer circle is a great way to reach out and reach up! You don't need to be able to travel; prayer requests can be shared within the group via the telephone or email. A scheduled prayer time of 8 a.m., 12 noon and 8 p.m. unites those offered prayers. Join in any time or all times to add your united voice of prayer for those in our parish family who are in need.

**Meals during a family illness/hospitalization:** Would you be able to provide a meal for someone who is in need? Are you in need of some help while you deal with health issues?

**Carpooling services for Mass:** If you need a ride to Mass or if you can provide a ride, this might be the ministry for you.

Want to help in other ways? We are always looking for volunteers to help in the Padre's Garden, Clean the church or work on our necessary fund raisers. Call the Mission for more ideas.

If you are interested in lending a hand or would like to be remembered in any of these ministries, please contact Joan at the office.

Mission San Antonio

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