

## **Email Guidelines Easter Week 09**

How can we recognize the risen Christ too? Easter Sunday lasts 8 days, this week. The gospels of the day tell us about how the risen Christ went to meet his disciples one by one. Some believed in Him straight away, others took more time to recognize Him. But the reality is that the risen Christ brought to all peace, joy, strength, courage, and the confirmation of God's power over all complexities and sufferings of life.

### **Easter Monday: Matthew 28:1-15**

The women were the first people whom the risen Jesus appeared! They were the ones commissioned afterwards to go and tell to others this hopeful news! Why the women? Perhaps because they believed using the mind and the heart. The resurrection is not something we can explain and understand only by our reason. It supposes faith; faith that comes from an experience of Jesus appearing or touching something within us or speaking to each one of us personally. The disciples heard this news from those women and then Jesus appeared to them; the women prepared the way to that encounter and belief!

Are we disposed to believe in those who have a "lower social standard", like women were in that society? Could the risen Jesus manifest himself to us through them?

After a long weekend, it is always hard to go back to the daily routine. But could Jesus be telling us those same words?: *"Do not be afraid... Go to Galilee and there you will see me."*

Lord, help us to believe and recognize you in our daily lives.

### **Easter Tuesday: John 20:11-18**

In the Garden of Eden, Eve didn't consider or obey God's words. Now, Mary of Magdala not only confuses the risen Jesus to be a gardener, as she also believes in his words. She cries desperately for missing the presence of Jesus, who had given her a really dignity. *"Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?... Mary!"*

I invite you to let the risen Christ call you by your name. He knows your loneliness, your frustrations, your search for appreciation that none can fully give you as you would expect. Let's try to understand, to contemplate how He might be looking at you with such a love and

care He has had always for you, as I think Mary understood when she hear her name "Mary"!

### **Easter Wednesday: Luke 24:13-35**

The two disciples on the road to Eammaus were leaving Jerusalem, that place where Jesus died. They were not only fearful of the Romans but also disappointed with God. After all, it seemed that God's promises ended up in death, instead of truth and freedom! This prevented them from recognizing the risen Christ.

*"What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?..."*

However, the disciples could recognize the risen Christ after having talked to Him, listened to the scriptures explained by Him and seeing Jesus breaking the bread.

Lord, help me also to share with you all those sufferings I feel are like stones that prevent me to believe in your power. And like the disciples saw you and believed in you, help me to see your light shining over these situations.

## **Easter Thursday: Luke 24: 35-48**

*“He said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’...  
‘Why are you so agitated and why are  
these doubts stirring in your hearts? See  
my hands and my feet that is I myself.”*

Some disciples could only recognize the risen Christ when they recognized the marks of His crucifixion, in his hands and feet.

I remember carrying a burden for long time, which I couldn't accept nor forgive those who had made me suffer. It was from the moment that I recognize not only that my sufferings were carried by Jesus, but that the risen Christ living a new life, had still the marks of His sufferings and death; when I started to see things differently. Jesus' love makes me live a new life with peace and hope, although I still feel the consequences of that suffering caused on me. However, the resurrection gave me the gift of the certainty that those wounds, even if still felt, aren't an obstacle for Christ's risen power to be revealed and shine through me. A new life can share lots of hope and meaning even if having some wounds.

Lord, help us to believe that the power of Your Life is stronger than any death or sufferings, even if they are still there. Help us to recognize our wounds Yours,

as well as Your offering of new life and hope despite all of it.

## **Easter Friday: John 21:1-14**

Today's gospel tells us how Peter recognized the risen Christ.

Jesus' words touched once again the core of Peter's interest in fishing.

*“Haven't you caught anything, friends?...  
Through the net out to starboard and you  
will find something.”*

And indeed, he found a big quantity of fish.

However, this sign didn't seem enough for Peter to recognize Jesus. He needed the confirmation of John: *“It is the Lord.”* Like Peter, many times we go back to our way to do things and we lose perspective of Jesus and of ourselves; of the fruit that our lives are meant to give.

Let's listen to these same words that Peter listened to and let's ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding of their meaning to our present lives. Let's also pay attention to how the risen Christ can speak to us and confirm His presence and words, through our Christian communities, either in simple conversations we might have or in the celebration of the sacrament of the Eucharist.