

Celebrating the Resurrection as a Moment in Time and a Mystery that Endures

Continued

Our Marianist Saints, who are inheritors of the Apostolic tradition, participated in this preservation of the Paschal Mystery. Through their determination and faith to follow God's will and rely on God's providence, they invited men and women to remain steadfast in their belief in Jesus Christ's mission of bringing the Reign of God into the world. Through their words and actions, they demonstrated the importance of bearing witness to God's love, mercy, and compassion, especially by looking to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as a role model and being grounded in relationship with one another through community.

It is fitting to look at some writings from our founders, Blessed Chaminade and Blessed Marie of the Conception, to see the importance of the Easter event.

Blessed Chaminade:

“And [he] was raised for our justification” [Rom 4:25]. It is the faith of the Resurrection. It is the imitation of the Resurrection that makes us just and faithful. To believe in the resurrected Jesus is the reward of faith. To imitate the resurrected Jesus is the reward of works. We must believe in the Resurrection if we want to be Christians. We must imitate the Resurrection if we want to live as Christians.

(#522, page 59, Writings on Faith, William Joseph Chaminade, Volume Two, trans. By Joseph Roy, SM, North American Center for Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 2005)

Blessed Marie of the Conception:

3. We are in a season when everything should help us raise our hearts to God and provide us with topics for reflection. First: the plants, the trees, everything is reborn, and should we alone remain unchanged! Let us be reborn in Jesus Christ. Easter is here! Let us be worthy of rising again with him to start a new life.

(paragraph 3, Letter #3, To Agathe Diché, Agen, March 27, 1805, Letters of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, ed. Joseph Stefanelli, SM, Volume 1, North American Center for Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 1999)

2. May we be born to a new life during this holy season, my dear friend. If we share the life of our divine Redeemer, others will discern in us his spirit – His maxims and His actions.

4. The resurrected Jesus dies no more. He must be the model of our own resurrection. His body is agile, subtle, and impassible. Similarly, our souls must be insensitive to the

attractions of the world, prompt in following the will of God, and disengaged from the senses and creatures.

5. Let us belong to God forever, without reserve or relapse; we owe this for so many reasons. We are privileged children of the grace of a God who has always had for us a preferential love. Oh, let us give him love, if we cannot give him life for life.

(paragraphs 2, 4, 5, Letter #181, To Agathe Diché, Agen, April 21, 1813, Letters of Adèle de Batz de Trenquelléon, ed. Joseph Stefanelli, SM, Volume 1, North American Center of Marianist Studies, Dayton, OH, 1999)