

CELEBRATE EASTER

Tuesday, Second Week of Easter

Serenity is the acceptance of the present moment without judgment.

Acts 4:32-37

Changed by the Easter event, the first believers maintained a healthy unity, harmony among themselves despite differences, “community of believers was of one mind and one heart”. Distinctions as regards gender, race, ethnic background, socio-economic status, etc. were causes of friction and separation among them...but Easter changed everything! Belongingness to the saving cross and the death and resurrection of Christ changed them radically. They were a new people and they were one, unified, harmonious group...they became a community in Christ! They bore witness to the resurrection of Jesus...they gave...they shared...they respected one another...they claimed nothing as their own...no one was needy among them.

Easter transformed their life and gave them a new sense of belongingness in the community!

Psalms 93

**The Lord is king in splendor robed;
Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength...
Your decrees are worthy of trust indeed;
Holiness befits your house...**

John 3:7-15

Nicodemus had a private and undisturbed conversation with Jesus in the night which gave him new and wonderful insights. He didn't fully grasp the meaning and significance of these insights. Jesus tenderly and patiently explained to Nicodemus the meaning and the value of the “rebirth” that he was talking about. He said that he was talking about what he knew and that he was not talking about a new theory or a new doctrine.

There are many things in the world, in nature and the in the universe that we do not understand, but we know they are there, and we know the effects of their work, they are real. Jesus used the example of the wind blowing where it wills – we know the wind and its effects well, but there are many things about the wind that we do not understand. The work of the “Spirit”, the work of “rebirth”, the work of “redemption”

may or may not be intellectually and fully grasped. This work is real, and it is the mystery of redemption – it is a mystery to be embraced, experienced and celebrated.

Learn to walk in the mystery of God's redeeming love!

Saint of the Day, April 14 - St. Lydwine and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

Lidwina was born on April 18, 1380 in Schiedam, Holland. She was one of nine children of a working man. At age 15, she was ice skating when she fell and broke a rib. She never recovered and became progressively disabled for the rest of her life. Her biographers state that she became paralyzed except for her left hand and that great pieces of her body fell off, and that blood poured from her mouth, ears, and nose. Today some posit that Saint Lidwina is one of the first known multiple sclerosis patients and attribute her disability to the effects of the disease and her fall.

After her fall, Lidwina fasted continuously and acquired fame as a healer and holy woman. The town officials of Schiedam, her hometown, promulgated a document (which has survived) that attests to her complete lack of food and sleep. At first, she ate a little piece of apple, then a bit of date and watered wine, then river water contaminated with salt from the tides. The authenticating document from Schiedam also attests that Lidwina shed skin, bones, parts of her intestines, which her parents kept in a vase and which gave off a sweet odor. These excited so much attention that Lidwina had her mother bury them. Lidwina died at the age of 53. She is known as the patron saint of ice skaters.

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