

April 6, 2013

A blessed Easter season to all of you,

I read an interesting article yesterday by John Allen, Jr., observer and commentator on all things Vatican. He went to Argentina to visit with people who have had first-hand experience with Pope Francis when he was still Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires. The article, "Who Francis may be, based on who Bergoglio was" can be found in the National Catholic Reporter at [www.ncronline.org/node/49181](http://www.ncronline.org/node/49181). It is a hopeful look at the leadership style and pastoral vision of the Cardinal, and provides a glimpse of the priorities he may carry forward into his papacy.

What I find most interesting are comments questioning the label "conservative" as it is being applied to Francis. Allen says, "people who know the lay of the land here insist there's little meaningful sense in which Bergoglio could be described as a "conservative", at least as measured by the standards of the church. They make [these] points: Bergoglio is one of the least ideological people you'll ever meet, more interested in concrete situations than in grand political theories; and the most serious opposition to Bergoglio from within the Catholic fold in Argentina consistently came from the right, not the left."

We may not know for some time where Francis will lead the Church, or whether he will listen to voices that have been marginalized and effectively silenced within the People of God over the last 40 years. But we can continue to pray for open and respectful dialogue between the Vatican and women called to priesthood, men called to priesthood and marriage, theologians and ethicists called to advance the boundaries of our religious consciousness, lesbians, gay men and transgendered individuals called to be fully who they are and to love fully who they love.

As we embrace the new life of Easter blossoming all around us in the landscape and in the Church this spring, we can join our hearts with the loving heart of the crucified and resurrected Jesus who walks with us on this fascinating journey. We progressive Catholics have been through a long and devastating crucifixion of our hopes and dreams. We're weary, maybe skeptical even, perhaps, a little cynical. But Easter teaches us not to give up hope and to allow our spirits to be raised from the grave of our grief and despair. The cross will always be overcome. That is the promise of Easter. Our readings for April Liturgies: April 13 & 14 – Acts 5:27-32,40-41; Ps 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13; Rev 5:11-14; Jn 21:1-19. April 28 – Acts 14:21-27; Ps 145:8-9,10-11,12-13; Rev 21:1-5; Jn 13:31-33,34-35.

### **Mass Schedule This Month**

Our Mass in **Portland** will be Saturday, **April 13**, at **Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2823 N. Rosa Parks Way** at **5:00pm**. Potluck follows. We will celebrate with entrees, salads, veggies and desserts. Choir rehearsal begins at 4:00 and all interested singers and musicians are invited to come and participate.

Our Mass in **Eugene** will be Sunday, **April 14**, at **First Congregational Church, UCC, 1050 E. 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **4:00pm**. A potluck will continue our Easter celebration with entrees, salads, veggies and desserts. Please come at 3:00 for rehearsal if you are interested in being part of the choir as a musician or singer.

On Sunday, **April 28**, at **10:30am** we will celebrate Mass in **Battleground**.

The address is 26605 NE 96th Ct., Battle Ground, WA. For further information or directions call Helen at 360-687-7475 or email her at [umphrey@ipns.com](mailto:umphrey@ipns.com).

### **Pastoral Update**

Easter Mass in Eugene was a glorious celebration last weekend. Our ad in the Register-Guard brought 8 new people through our doors and we filled the chapel with no room to spare. Four members of the Portland community also made the trip to Eugene for Easter services, and it was wonderful to have both communities linked in such a joyful way. Sophia's presence was manifest in the resounding a capella singing of the Lord's Prayer by the entire community, in Charlotte's taking on the role of accompanist with only one day to practice when Dianne came down with pneumonia on Holy Saturday, and in the spirit of joy and excitement that permeated our gathering.

**A pastoral reminder**--if you or someone you know has a pastoral need that isn't being met, please don't hesitate to give me a call. You have my email address in this mailing, and my office phone number is 503-286-3584. Feel free to use either one. You can contact me anytime for conversation, home visitation, sacraments of reconciliation or anointing, home Masses, weddings, funerals, memorial services or other pastoral care needs.

### **Food for the St. Andrew Episcopal Food Pantry**

Please remember to bring food and personal hygiene donations for the Food Pantry when you come to Mass next weekend. **Look for the basket at the entrance to the sanctuary when you come for Liturgy on Saturday or Sunday, and please be as generous as possible.**

As we move further into spring, sun warming the earth in our northern hemisphere, the gardeners among us have already begun planting seeds that will become the harvest of summer and fall. What are the spiritual seeds waiting to be planted in your own inner garden? Are there any seed intentions or ideas you conjured at the beginning of the year that need to be gathered for planting and nurturing now that it's spring? Prayer practices begun during Lent need not be abandoned this Easter season. If continued they can grow stronger with the sun just as the trees and grasses around us.

Easter blessings to all of you,

Toni