

THE OCTIVE OF EASTER  
(His resurrection - Our victory)

Jesus, while addressing the crowds, stuns and confounds them, and then throughout the ages, all of humanity by suggesting that He, who is divine assumed our flesh to become one with us! He proclaims that He is the living bread come down from heaven, giving his flesh for the life of the world. He proclaims, "whoever eats of it will live forever, and I will raise him up on the last day!"

Therefore, Jesus had two distinct natures, one human and the other divine. AS TRUE MAN, our Blessed Lord came to be one with us, to share in all of our human joys and sorrows. Even to die for us. But AS TRUE GOD, the finality of death and his humanity could not Limit nor define him, for only God can be raised from the dead! The Father sent Jesus to us to restore and to free us from the bondage of our desperate, sinful, and so often self-destructive ways. Without question, lives, lived apart from God, are lives lived without meaning, without purpose, and without happiness!

And the moment he rose from the dead, Jesus announced for all the world to hear: "Behold, I make all things new!" For at that very moment He made of us a whole new creation, a new people, a people set apart, a holy people who would come to share in the very divinity of Christ, as sons and daughters of our loving Father! Jesus confirmed this truth when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me will never die, and I will raise him up on the last day!"

You see, Christ's victory flowing from his resurrection is also our victory! For Jesus is the Father's special and most precious gift to each one of us. A victory He shares with us, without any effort or merit on our part, and without any cost or pain to us. Jesus comes to us as a free gift, but a gift which would cost him most dearly! He assumed our humanity solely to sacrifice it! Didn't he say, "no greater love has any man, but that he give up his life

for his friends? Isn't this the very linch-pin of our faith?

Notice this wonderful exchange, this mutual sharing:  
The Son of God IN HIS DIVINITY, had no capacity to suffer and die. To do so, he had to assume our mortal flesh, our finality, our capacity for suffering and death. So WE, in our HUMANITY gave HIM the power to die, so that HE, in his DIVINITY, could give US the power to live, forever free from the bondage of sin and death! He gave us everlasting life as our inheritance, as sons and daughters of our loving Father.

And by his passion and death, Jesus paid the price and assumed the punishment that we all deserved, resulting from our sinfulness. He paid a debt He didn't own. That same debt we owed, but couldn't pay! And with his resurrection to glory, Jesus now gives us this same hope and assurance, his own pledge for our own resurrection.

This is the good news we proclaim and share with all humanity this Easter season! And it must never, never be taken for granted! So now let us open our hearts and minds to him. Let us rejoice and be glad, for Christ has truly risen! This is the nobility, this is the wonder, and this is the sacred mystery of our faith!

God bless you all