

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

WWW.SJBRIDGEPORT.ORG

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May, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Jesus' resurrection body shows some exceptional characteristics. On the one hand, it is clearly physical. He eats, He builds a fire, He can be touched, He has scars on His hands, feet and side. When He appears to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they have no doubt that a man has joined them. Likewise Mary Magdalene supposes Him to be the gardener – not an angel or specter of some sort. Jesus' body is unquestionably physical.

Yet on the other hand, His body is not exactly like ours, nor identical with His body before His death. He can appear behind locked doors, as He does on Easter night and Low Sunday. He can simply vanish at will. He can talk with people without being recognized, and He can reveal Himself at will, as He does to Mary Magdalene and the two on the road to Emmaus.

It should not surprise us that His resurrected body has special characteristics. As one raised from the dead, He (and His body) really belong in heaven rather than on earth. His disciples have need of Him, so He spends forty days before He ascends to heaven. They are transformed by their encounter with Him: they are assured that He is alive, so that they can witness to the resurrection, and they need Him to open their minds to understand Scripture and the sacraments. But Christ's body is a heavenly one.

His is a perfected human body, and as such shares much with what Adam's body would have been like had he not sinned. Adam's pre-fall body was physical, able to enjoy food and drink, and not be subject to the disordered passions, nor to sickness, decay and death. This is all true of Jesus' resurrected body. Yet even here there is a difference. Adam's sinless body would not have had scars, and would not have passed through death. The body of the second Adam has both. Perhaps this is what made Thomas so insistent on seeing the scars on Jesus' hands and side: not just to satisfy himself that His body was physical, but that it was the same body that was crucified. [Click here to view the print version.](#)

Having put on Christ, we will be raised with bodies like His. We will share His perfected humanity. Our bodies will have the scars of our death, which we die in union with Him. And they will share the glory of the life (after death) which death can no longer touch. They will properly belong in heaven – with Jesus. We prepare for this by our daily practice of dying to sin and living for Christ. Our perfection is gained through death, and the scars on our perfected bodies do not make them flawed, and more than Jesus' scars do His. We are bound for heaven, and – following Jesus – our road lies through death to the perfect and eternal life – with Him.

Evensong & Benediction

Paschaltide Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament (with the choir) is at hand: this Friday, May 3, 7:30. Please bring friends and help spread the word! This can be an opportune time to introduce people to St John's and the Ordinariate. Bell Anderson is organizing the reception afterward, but can use some help as she will be away on the 3rd. Give her a call. And don't miss it!

Door to Door Evangelism

June 1 should be on your calendar: that is the Saturday when we will go out into Bridgeport and knock on doors. Our aim is not just to make Saint John's known among our neighbors, but to offer the love of God in Jesus Christ. We will want to do more listening than talking, and respond to whatever needs are expressed. This is the program: after the 9 o'clock Mass that Saturday and breakfast, there will be a time for training (and questions), then teams of two will go out for about two hours, returning for lunch and sharing of results. We should be done about 2:30.

The Legion of Mary will be leading the training for us. Door to door evangelization is something they have been doing for years. They will also bring a number of experienced callers to team up with those of us who have never done it before. There will be a sign-up sheet in the coffee hour room, so we can get a good idea of who is able to help out. I realize that this can be

a daunting prospect, but God provides the grace which is needed, and the training will supply the practical tools to help us be comfortable in doing it.

Parish Dinner

The annual Parish Dinner is scheduled for Friday in the Octave of Pentecost, June 14, at St Helena's on Route 202 in Blue Bell. The parish has a catering operation, the Empress Room, as part of their facilities. Details will follow. For the present, plan to come and put it on your calendar.

Dialogue of the Carmelites

A notice of interest from James Altena: "On Saturday, May 11, at noon, the Metropolitan Opera in New York is simulcasting to select theaters Francis Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmelites* -- an opera that presents a profoundly Christian meditation on faith, life, and a witness to Christ, in a production so powerful that it literally reduces one to tears at its end. (One friend told me upon seeing this production, "When my wife and I walked out at the end, we were *literally* changed people." The performance will last about 3 hours. If there is sufficient interest, I am willing to give a presentation about the opera.

"The Metropolitan Opera Website lists simulcast locations. I believe the closest theaters are at Plymouth Meeting Mall, King of Prussia and Neshaminy Mall. I would recommend buying tickets in advance, as they are reserved seats and occasionally these broadcasts sell out (admittedly unlikely in this case). It's cheaper if someone can go to the theater and buy the tickets in person a few days before, as online purchases are subject to an additional processing fee.

Economy & Society International Prize

It is a great joy to announce that our own Mary Hirschfeld has been awarded the prestigious Economy and Society International Prize given by the Fondazione Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice. The prize, which also includes a monetary award, will be presented to her at the Vatican the end of May. It recognizes the important contribution which her book, *Aquinas and the Market: Toward a Humane Economy*, makes to our understanding of how Christians should deal with money. The book (available on Amazon, and which I heartily recommend) gives us a framework for thinking about money as Christians. This is needed, since it is obvious that increasing wealth does not automatically bring increased human flourishing or happiness, and likewise that diminishing wealth doesn't do so either. Christians must have a better way – and her book is written to help us on that way. If you would like to hear her tell the fascinating story of her conversion, you can find a video of her telling the story here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq-WRaaLT2E> Congratulations!

Calendar

May 3, 7:30, Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
May 8, 6:45 p.m. Patricians adult discussion group; this month: the Rosary
May 10 & 24, Youth Group, 7 p.m.
May 12, annual Parent Safe Environment Training (during coffee hour)
June 1, 9-2, Door to door evangelism in Bridgeport
June 14, Parish Dinner
June 30, Patronal Feast: the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
July 22-26 – Vacation Bible School
October 15 – Ordinariate from Mass at the Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia
November 8, Ordination of Matt Hummel and Roger Converse as Deacons at SJB

Thrift Shop Update

The Thrift Shop continues its ministry Tuesdays and Saturdays 10-3. While it provides a service to shoppers, it also is a way of introducing St John's to people. I want to express my gratitude to Charles Dickinson-Marks who has retired from the shop for health reasons. Charles was instrumental in getting the shop up and running: indeed, without his efforts, we would not have it at all. He has been a stalwart worker since the beginning some two years ago. We are grateful for all his efforts, and wish him every blessing in his "retirement." Of course, we are also grateful to the faithful crew of workers who keep the shop humming every Tuesday and Saturday, 10-3.

A word of thanks also goes to Bishop Lopes for making the trip to be with us on Maundy Thursday. Even though his plane was late and he arrived with barely enough time to vest for Mass, he gave every evidence of recollection and devotion during the Mass. We look forward to his next visit in November to ordain Matt Hummel and Roger Converse as Deacons.

Yours faithfully,

Fr David Ousley