

IMPACT

May 2025

Bring faith to life.
Find life in faith.



Discover true love.

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus met Peter, James, and John by the seashore, filling their nets to overflowing. They left their boats behind, awestruck and hopeful. After the resurrection, confused and out of sorts, the apostles returned to their fishing boats, seeking security in their previous way of life. They encountered Jesus on the seashore again, their fishing net and their hearts overflowing anew.

Even though the disciples had journeyed with Jesus for three years, he still had much to teach them about forgiveness, mercy, and love. Peter had denied Jesus during his passion; others had walked away, hidden, fearful. Jesus did not come to condemn them, however. He came with love, seeking love. "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Jesus asked. "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 21:15, 13:35)

Allow the Lord to come to you with love. Jesus sacrificed himself, giving himself completely so that God's love might be known. Listen to the gospels as though it's the first time you're hearing them and be awestruck by the miracle of Christ's undying love for all.

The love we encounter in Jesus is not easy, feel-good love, like young infatuation. Rather, the love of Christ is deep, unshakable, true. Jesus reveals God who is love: "God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret. God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange." (CCC, 221)

Thank God for the gift of love through sharing and caring. Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" Respond to Christ's love in gratitude by putting love into action, especially for those who are poor, lonely, frightened, and sick.



Give yourself away.

"There the cross is found, because the cross is our desire to give ourselves away. It is our hunger to genuinely hand ourselves over, to give ourselves to others, because it is in doing so that we are most who we are. If you hold onto your life, you will not have life, but if you give it away, you cannot exhaust life. It becomes everlasting life. You become absolutely you.

And who, finally, are you? You are the image and likeness of God. If God is pure self-gift, then self-gift is the image in which we are made, the blueprint on which we are built. Therefore, to give ourselves away is what we most deeply desire."

– Fr. Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*



Jesus said:

"My sheep hear my voice;

I know them, and they follow me.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish.

No one can take them out of my hand.

-John 10:27-29, Fourth Sunday of Easter

New life

What difference does the resurrection make in your every day life? At times, the richness of what we believe may seem distant from the way we live. In this season of Easter, our Sunday readings focus on the depths of Jesus' love for us and the fervor of the first disciples in witnessing to that love with others. These are perfect themes for us to explore this month, as we consider what followers of Jesus who live the new life of the resurrection are called to be and to do.

There are many moments when we face death. Perhaps we experience the physical death of a loved one, or we come to terms with our own mortality.

There are other "deaths" we experience in life as well: illness, with the limitations it brings; fear, and the paralysis that may accompany it; anxiety, and the way it can diminish our sense of wellbeing and hope.

Christ's resurrection brings new life, transforming our experiences of death with ultimate meaning and the certainty of God's love through everything life holds.

As the Easter season unfolds, face death with the assurance that new life is yours in Christ! Be mindful that others wait for you to witness to and share that life as a faithful disciple and steward.

IMPACT THIS MONTH

Stewards of Hope

We all need a little hope now and then. It is easy in today's charged, polarized culture to be overwhelmed by fear, mistrust, anger, and frustration. Studies show that more people are lonely and isolated than in previous generations. Others long for support from family or friends who seem too busy to listen or pay attention to their dismay.



The Jubilee Year theme "Pilgrims of Hope" is a reminder that we have hope and are called to bring hope to others through our membership in Christ's Body. Jesus' resurrection and ascension gives us the certainty that this present moment, no matter how dismal it may seem, is a passing thing - Christ's victory over death means that we have hope for eternity.

The apostles understood that the hope that is found in Jesus' resurrection was a great gift that must be shared. They simply could not not share the Good News of Christ with all.

This month, reflect on the hope you have been given through your faith in Jesus Christ. When do you lean in to that hope in times of trial, loneliness, or frustration? How are you called to be a good steward of this hope? The world needs hope now more than ever. Be hope. Share it. Be a good steward of hope for all.