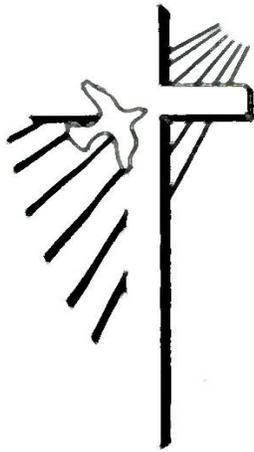


# SandalPrints

Issue # 162 ... Resurrection Joy ... 2016AD  
*Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis of Reconciliation - Palm Springs, CA*  
www.FranciscanCanticle.com



## EASTER

The feast of the resurrection of Christ derives its name from Eastre, the goddess of Spring, according to St. Bede the Venerable, but there are other opinions. In any event, this feast is the high point of the Christian year, as it celebrates the central mystery of Christ, His triumph over death and the cross in His resurrection, which in the Synoptic Gospels is associated with the Jewish Passover.

In celebrating the Pasch, the early Christians no longer focused so much on the exodus from Egypt, but on the new exodus from the slavery of sin into new life in the Risen Lord wrought by Christ. This new focus was central to Sunday's celebration of the Eucharist, but the natural tendency was to historicize it by celebrating it yearly on the first Sunday after

the fourteenth of Nisan (the date of the Jewish Passover). Not all accepted this way of computing the Easter date, but eventually the Council of Nicaea furthered uniformity by fixing it on the Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox. There are still difficulties between those who follow the Gregorian (Western) and Julian (Russian Orthodox) calendars.

The spirit of the feast of Easter begins with the vigil and its festival of lights, symbolizing the Light of the Resurrection seen in the new fire, the Easter Candle, and the Exsultet. The Easter Season lasts until Pentecost, with the Paschal candle lit at Mass until then.

The Lord has indeed risen, alleluia.  
Glory and kingship be his forever and ever.  
Luke 23:24

## CHRIST DID PHYSICALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD

*By Richard Brakefield, J.D., S.F.O.*

It is the fashion these days to mix silly science and historical revisionism in an attempt to disprove what hundreds of millions of Christians have held as fundamental tenets of

their faith for more than two thousand years. Books such as The Da Vinci Code, Holy Blood, Holy Grail, and others have tickled the popular imagination and created much discourse. Archaeological finds like the recently touted 'tomb of Jesus' and the recent book, Jesus' Family Tomb, raise questions more often posed at cocktail parties than in serious academic circles. Critics of religion and of Christianity in particular love to promulgate theories based on preposterous theses with the purpose of besmirching Christian beliefs and suggesting that Christians are just gullible folks who lack mature intelligence and perspicacity. Some of these books are good fiction and are entertaining, others are mere drivel. None are solely fact based and authoritative.

More disturbing is the fact that several clerics of differing flavors of Christianity have been quite vocal in promulgating the proposition that Christ did not rise physically from the dead but that the resurrection was simply a spiritual one. Christ, they say, lives on in the faith His followers maintain in His teachings but they deny that He lives physically. With due respect for these clerics, I have to voice my rejection of their view. In fact, I have to go further and say that I wonder how they can seriously call themselves Christian if they deny the physical resurrection of Christ. Paul was very clear about this very question. Paul writes, "...and if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe." [1 Cor. 15:14] And again he writes, "And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins." [1 Cor. 15:17] If Christ did not actually and physically rise from the dead, walk the earth in His glorified body, appear to His disciples, share a meal with them, and challenge Thomas who doubted His resurrection to stick his finger into the wounds He carries to this day, then there is absolutely nothing for us to hold to save some sensible and meritorious teachings that are in some ways not much

different from those of several other great teachers.

Most shocking to me as a Catholic is that one of the clerics who spoke recently on television wore a roman collar and propounded what I must call heresy. He did so with an air of theological authority, yet denial of Christ's physical resurrection flies in the face of all the Catholic Church teaches. I am not a theologian nor am I learned in all that every expression of Christianity holds as true but I know of no Christian church that denies the physical resurrection of Christ.

There are many great men of history of whom we can say that they live on in their cause though they themselves have died and no longer physically exist. But Christ's cause is not like that of Thomas Jefferson, George Washington or Winston Churchill. Such men are testaments to the best of human causes and we honor them for their service, leadership and courage. In that sense, we can say that such men live on but it is in human memory and adulation that they live. Their bodies are dust and they will not return physically until that day when, we firmly believe, God will raise all the dead.

Christ is a different story. He does not live through our faith but through the power of God. Paul's point is simple and direct - it is meaningless to say that Jesus lives on only in the sense that His teachings were good and they still are taught, that His cause was just and worthy and that these things are linked irrevocably and historically to His name. To teach that His cause remains but that Jesus died and remains dead is no more than pious prattle. It misses the very essence of what Paul is telling us and what is revealed in the Gospels: that Christ's death and resurrection is intrinsic to His cause, His teachings, His very purpose for becoming man. His cause was to die for us and to rise from that death. The physicality of Jesus' resurrection by the power of God, His own will, *is* His cause and

its justification and proof of our salvation.

Christ did die. He died on the cross and was buried but, if He did not physically rise from death then death and sin are victorious and we are not saved and have no hope of union with God. If that be the case, then our detractors are correct and we are indeed merely silly, misdirected fools who lack a mature understanding of life. But we know the truth and we should pray for those who deny Christ's physical resurrection and ask God to let them find the truth too.

There have been many attempts to pervert the truth about Christ's death and resurrection and we can be assured that there will be many more. But we must not become discouraged because truth is immutable and every attempt to deny Christ's victory over sin and death is doomed to ultimate failure.

This is the Easter season and this season is one of wonder, rejoicing and immense victory. This season is the focal point of our liturgical year. It proclaims the justification of every worthy sacrifice... even the greatest ever made. Easter shouts joy to all the world, announces the goodness and love that God has for every one of us. That thought recalls the words of a great American spiritual - "God is a good God. God don't ever change. God is a good God. That's why I keep on praisin' His name."

Regardless what the nay-sayers exclaim, be assured...Jesus did physically rise from the dead and He is alive today, enthroned at the right hand of the Father and His victory is forever.

#### **Franciscan Saints, Blesseds and Holy Ones March**

2. St. Francis of Paola, founder of the Hermits of St. Francis of Assisi, Minims
2. Bl. Elizabeth Vendramini, III Ord.
3. St. Benedict the African, I Ord.

24. Holy Thursday
25. Good Friday
26. Holy Saturday
27. ***Easter Sunday***
21. St. Conrad of Parzham, I Ord.
23. Bl. Giles of Assisi, I Ord.
24. St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, I Ord.
25. Bl Pedro de San Jose, III Ord.
27. St. Zita of Lucca, III Ord.
28. Bl. Luchesio & Buonadonna, III Ord.
30. St. Joseph Benedict Cottolengo, III Ord.

*In his death on the cross, Christ made reparation for the sins of humankind. Reparation is one of the conditions of penance. This may entail repairing our relationship with God, making amends for the damage done to a person's reputation, or recompense for losses sustained through an immoral action. An act of reparation is a conscious turning to God for mercy leading to reconciliation with others.*

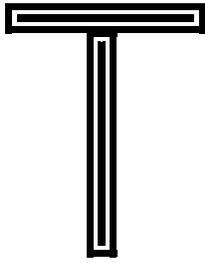
**A prophet is not a fortune-teller, but one who speaks forth God's words. The prophet speaks God's message no matter how difficult the situation. The prophet often suffers rejection and persecution from those who refuse to hear the message. The prophet warns the people of the consequences of their sins, but also gives them hope in God's willingness to save them.**

#### **Website Watching**

Have you stumbled upon a great website recently that you'd like to share with the readers of SandalPrints? If so, please email it to: [Anthony@FranciscanCanticle.com](mailto:Anthony@FranciscanCanticle.com) and we'll put it into the next issue under Website Watching. This issue's websights of interest:

[www.forests-forever.com](http://www.forests-forever.com)  
[www.miniature-earth.com](http://www.miniature-earth.com)

Let us pray for the intentions of those who asked us to pray for them.



One day, when Abba Agathon was on his way to town to sell small utensils, he saw a leper sitting on the roadside, who asked: Where are you going? Abba Agathon replied: To town, to sell these things. Then he said: Do me a favor, and take me there. So he carried him to the town. Then he said: Put me down wherever you sell those things. So he did. And when he sold one item, the leper asked: How much did you sell it for? So he told him how much it was. Then he said: Buy me something nice. So he bought it. He sold another item. Then the leper asked: And how much was it? So he told him the price. Then he said: Buy me this. So he bought it. After selling everything, he wanted to go. Then the leper asked: Are you going back? He replied: Sure. Then he said: Do me a favor again and take me back to the place where you found me. So he carried him back to the place where he was. Then he said: You are blessed, Agathon, by the Lord, in heaven and on earth! As the Abba lifted his eyes, he saw nobody, for it was an angel of the Lord who had come to test him.

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### **SandalPrints**

is a monthly spiritual journal published by Franciscan Canticle, Inc. and the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis of Reconciliation. It utilizes and appreciates the generous contributions of various writers and other gifted

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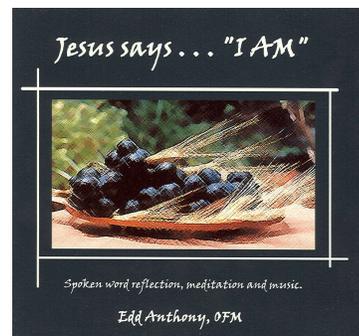
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**A BLESSED EASTER TO ALL !**