

Easter litany ties in with modern faith journey

By Sister Estelle Martin, RSM
Guest contributor

Christ is risen!
Christ will go before you.
Christ will come again.
Christ is with you.
Christ is within you.

The Easter litany rings with hope and promise. The risen Jesus remains present to and with His followers. Christ's work continues through His church's actions — ordinary people such as you and me.

During the gospel story proclaimed on the fifth Sunday of Easter (John 14:1-12), the disciples are gathered in



the room for the Last Supper. Fear gnaws at their hearts. They are confused and anxious. A yet unnamed darkness penetrates them.

And then Jesus speaks words of quiet reassurance: "Do not let your hearts be troubled ..." He promises that He will be with them even after He goes away. This new presence will

not be a shadow-like existence, static and detached, but a vibrant dynamic source of life — a life that unfolds in a journey of faith.

The destination ("... my Father's house...") and the way (Jesus) merge to become one in the fullness of God's presence. The disciples cling to the message without understanding, grasping its meaning only in the story's retelling after the Easter resurrection.

As author of this Gospel, John addresses a pilgrim people who journey together toward the fulfillment of its promises. The words and images that assured the disciples of Christ's continued presence with them shape our faith experience 2,000 years later.

Our initiation into God's household is first expressed in our baptism. Here in the waters of death and resurrection we enter the way, which is Christ. United in him we claim the name Christian. As members of the body of Christ, we give witness to the gospel

message. Our baptismal commitment is lived out in this identification with Christ.

As a faith community we manifest Christ's presence among us when we gather for worship as well as praise and share the bread and wine together; when we show compassion for the poor and oppressed; when we support one another in times of grief and occasions of celebration.

It is during ordinary events such as these — experiences marking our journey together — that we become alive in Christ, "living stones, built as an edifice of spirit ..." (1 Peter 2:5). We become the dwelling place of God — the church.

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Sister Martin serves as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Obituary

Sister Reparata Muldoon, SSJ; 88

Sister Reparata Muldoon, SSJ, who taught in diocesan schools for 52 years, died on Friday, April 9, 1993, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Pittsford. She was 88.

A native of Seneca Falls, Sister Reparata entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Patrick's Church in 1920. She graduated from Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College before obtaining her master's degree from St. Bonaventure University.

Among the schools at which Sister Reparata taught were: Immaculate Conception, Rochester (14 years); Immaculate Conception, Ithaca (nine

years); St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls (four years); St. Alphonsus, Auburn (18 years); St. Mary's, Elmira (six years); and both Blessed Sacrament and St. Agnes High School, Rochester (one-half year each).

Sister Reparata is survived by a brother, William Muldoon of Summerfield, Fla.; a niece, Patricia Mahoney of Las Vegas, Nev.; and her Sisters of St. Joseph.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 13 at the SSJ motherhouse chapel. Burial was in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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