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## We need to arise to a life of faith

## **By Father Albert Shamon** Courier columnist

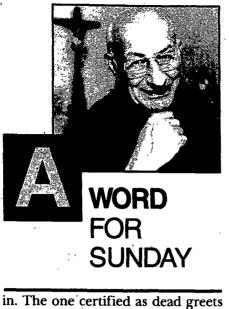
Sunday's Readings: (R3) John 20:1-9; (1) Acts 10:34, 37-43; (R2) Colossians 3:1-4.

It is ironic, isn't it, to realize that the only ones on the first Easter morn who did not think that Jesus had risen from the dead were His own friends.a.

When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, the sight of the stone rolled away, the linen cloths folded, the absence of the corpse, did not move Mary to thoughts of a resurrection. To Simon Peter she said, "The Lord has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put him!" Her logic was faultless. Dead bodies do not simply disappear. Someone has to move them.

When Peter and John came to the tomb and looked in and saw the wrappings on the ground, they too believed, like Mary, that someone had removed the body. For, as yet, they did not understand the Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.

Only when she hears her name called, "Mary," does the unthinkable, the impossible, the incredible break



her, calls her by name. Mary struggles to make sense. She takes this one who speaks to be the gardener. She pleads with him, "Tell me, where have you laid him and I will take him away." Like the voice that shatters glass, Jesus's voice shatters Mary's world and calls her forward to new possibility. Now she is able to obey and to tell

the others, "I have seen the Lord."

Mary has moved beyond her preoccupation with a corpse to an encounter with Christ. Her cause-effect logic is replaced by the larger logic called faith.

Francis Bacon notes that, in regard to matters such as the resurrection "a little learning is a dangerous thing." That is, some of our allegedly intellectual reservations about Christian miracles are due to too little thought. rather than too much. In his essay on atheism, he wrote: "A little philosophy inclineth a man's mind to atheism; but depth in philosophy bringeth men's minds about to religion."

Alexander Pope put it this way: "A little learning is a dangerous thing;/Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:/There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,/And drinking largely sobers us again."

There is really no story about the resurrection in the New Testament. Except in the most fragmentary way, it is not described at all. There is no poetry about it. Instead, it is simply proclaimed as fact. Christ is risen! In fact, the very existence of the New Testament itself proclaims it. Unless something very real took place on that strange, confused morning, there would be no New Testament, no church, no Christianity. The kerygma, the proclamation of the early church, was simply the resurrection (R1).

In saying, "Since you have been raised up in company with Christ," a common expression in the early church for baptism as including both the dying and the rising with Christ, Paul draws two conclusions. First, the resurrection has to be implemented by constant moral effort: "Set your heart on what pertains to higher realms ... be intent on things above rather than on things of earth." And secondly, the resurrection is a hidden reality which is not finally revealed until Christ's second coming (R2).

Until then, we implement our resurrection at baptism whenever we move from self-centeredness to caring for others; when we move from irresponsibility to a sense of responsibility for self and others; when we move from a need to receive to a concern to give; when we move from a closed mind to an open mind; when we move from fear of self, neighbor and God to a love of self, neighbor and God.

When we arise to a life of faith.

## Easter Dinning Guide





n' sour or pineapple sauce, and tender top round of beef w bordelaise. Honey mustard chicken, Baked ziti parmesan, Pearl onions and peas, Wild rice pilaf, Mashed potatoes. Assorted homemade dessert table to include cakes, pies, Special Appearances by the Easter Bunny

Throughout the Day **JELLY BEAN CONTEST** Can you guess how many Jelly Beans?

**Reservations strongly** recommended, Large and small parties welcome.

Adults \$14.95, Seniors \$11.95, Children 6-12 years \$7.95, Under 5 years old free!!!

Special Easter Sunday Dinners served 5pm 10pm in the Greenhouse Café

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