
ORANGE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF

CATHOLIC  WOMEN

Fragments

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

ODCCW Mission Statement

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



AMAZED BY LOVE

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

My reflection today is one I read in the Magnificat Holy Week issue. This excerpt is written by Pope Francis. "Let us start over from amazement. Let us gaze upon Jesus on the cross and say to him, Lord, how much you love me! How precious I am to you! Let us be amazed by Jesus so that we can start living again, for the grandeur of life lies not in possessions and promotions, but in realizing that we are loved."
(continued on next page)

This is the grandeur of life: discovering that we are loved. And the grandeur of life lies precisely in the beauty of love... Today's Gospel shows us, immediately after the death of Jesus, a splendid icon of amazement. It is the scene of the centurion who, upon seeing that Jesus had died, said: Truly this man was the Son of God! He was amazed by love. How did he see Jesus die? He saw him die in love, and this amazed him. Jesus suffered immensely, but he never stopped loving. That is what it is to be amazed before God, who can fill even death with love. In the gratuitous and unprecedented love, the pagan centurion found God. His words—truly this man was the Son of God!— seal the Passion narrative. God has revealed himself and reigns only with the disarmed and disarming power of love."

Our God is a God of love and pure goodness. Wow! Just to ponder and process that is beautiful. It is my challenge each day to myself and to you to radiate that love and goodness to others in our actions, words, voices, facial expressions, and embraces. Spring is a wonderful time for love and new beginnings as we bask in and share the love and goodness of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

Janine Meckler
ODCCW President

APRIL 2023

MARCH GENERAL GATHERING



Photos of the Praise and Worship Duo Kristen Linares and Anthony Bagtas from our General Gathering on March 21, 2023.

BEHOLD, HE IS RISEN!

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor



Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the Dead. Alleluia!

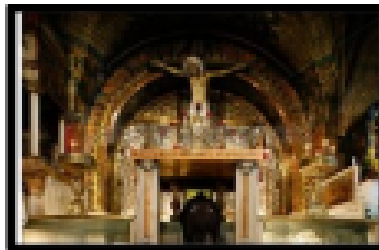
The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. "Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him ..." Matthew 28:5-7.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26.

St. Pope John Paul II said, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song".

My husband and I went on a Holy Land Pilgrimage and journeyed to the Holy Sepulcher Church. We saw the "slab of limestone" that the Holy Body of Jesus was laid on after His death and crucifixion. As I bent and kissed the empty stone, I was reminded of the promise given to us in the Apostle Creed, "the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting".

Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday, the greatest feast day in the Christian Calendar. During the 40 days of Lent, Catholics prepared themselves for this great feast by prayer, fasting, almsgiving and self-denial "to die spiritually with Christ on Good Friday, the day of His Crucifixion, so that we can rise again with Him in new life on Easter."



Why does the Easter date change from year to year, unlike Christmas that is always on December 25?

The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the paschal full moon, which is the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox.

We know that Easter must always occur on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. But why the paschal full moon? Because that was the date of Passover in the Jewish

BEHOLD, HE IS RISEN!

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover.

The Church does not use the exact date of the paschal full moon but an approximation, because the paschal full moon can fall on different days in different time zones, which would mean that the date of Easter would be different depending on which time zone you live in. For calculation purposes, the full moon is always set at the 14th day of the lunar month (the lunar month begins with the new moon). Likewise, the Church sets the date of the vernal equinox at March 21, even though it can occur on March 20. Both approximations allow the Church to set a universal date for Easter."

Sources

<http://biblehub.com/matthew/28-6.htm>

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/topics/topic_easter.html#setQHlJCEAulWVX.99

http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/What_Is_Easter.htm

http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/f/Calculate_Date.htm

WHO IS ST. DISMAS?

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor



Who is St. Dismas? Have you heard of him? St. Dismas, The Good Thief, is the Patron Saint of Prison Ministry. Matthew 25-36, "I was in prison, and you came to me".

This research is a result of the investigation into the life of St. Dismas. The first piece of evidence was found on Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. St. Dismas, "The Thief on the Cross, also known as the

Good Thief or the Penitent Thief, is an unnamed character mentioned in the Gospel of Luke who was crucified alongside Jesus and asked Jesus to remember him in his kingdom."

The Catholic tradition and the Gospel of Nicodemus name the thief, Dismas. "He was never canonized by the Catholic Church but is venerated as a saint by local traditions as Saint Dismas (sometimes spelled "Dysmas" or in Spanish "Dimas"). The name Dismas for this thief may date back to the 4th century." There are variations to his name, Titus in Arabic Christian tradition, Zoatham in the Codex Colbertinus, and Rach in Russian Orthodox tradition.

The second piece of evidence is from Terry H. Jones (2010) who wrote a synopsis about St. Dismas for the Star Quest Production Network (SQPN). Jones stated that St. Dismas' feast day is March 25 which is the "date derived from tradition that this was the calendar date of the Crucifixion, though the Passover and Easter celebrations move from year to year." Dismas, "one of the thieves crucified with Jesus, the other being traditionally known as Gestas; Dismas is the Good Thief, the one who rebuked the other, and asked for Christ's blessing."

Jones said that there is a legend "from an Arabic infancy gospel" that says when the Holy Family was fleeing to Egypt that a band of thieves came upon them, "including Dismas and Gestas. One of the highwaymen realized there was something different, something special about them, and ordered his fellow bandits to leave them alone; this thief was the young Dismas." According to tradition, Dismas was crucified in the year 30 in Jerusalem and was canonized pre-congregation (prior to the modern investigations for sainthood, possibly by a Patriarch or popular devotion).

WHO IS ST. DISMAS?

Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD
ODCCW Emeritus Advisor

Jones concludes with Luke 23:39-43, "And one of the criminals who were hanged [there] was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40. But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41. "And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42. And he was saying, Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom!" 43. And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in Paradise".

The third item is a story of St. Dismas that appeared in the Religious Section of the Time/CNN website. "His real name is lost in antiquity, but he is known as St. Dismas. He is the patron saint of those condemned to death. Dismas was the "Good Thief" who was crucified on Calvary alongside Jesus, who said to him: "This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." This poor saint's feast day (March 25) gains him no great devotion, for it coincides with the vastly more important feast of the Annunciation...The Good Thief attracted the whimsical but devout interest of a convert to Roman Catholicism, Dempster MacMurphy of the Daily News. Orator, raconteur, ex-song-&-dance man...Read more: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,760855,00.html#ixzz1losbUR1d>

As I read Days of Glory: The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, author Richard T. A. Murphy, O.P. (1980) said that one of the robbers crucified with Jesus said that there was something about Jesus that struck him. "This innocent man, he thought would be a king despite of everything. Dismas (as some name him) ... asked, 'Jesus remember me when you come in your kingly power', it was a short prayer but a good one." This ended my investigation.

For information about the Office of Restorative Justice/Detention Ministry Catholic Diocese of Orange contact Richard Flores, rflores@rcbo.org.

Sources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Dismas
- <http://saints.sqpn.com/saint-dismas/>
- <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,760855,00.html#ixzz1losbUR1d>
- https://rocketreach.co/richard-flores-email_132394189

THE APOSTLES

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE APOSTLES AND WHERE ARE THEIR REMAINS TODAY?

 St. JAMES THE GREATER DEATH Stabbed with a sword REMAINS St. James Church Compostela, Spain	 St. JAMES THE LESSER DEATH Stoned to death REMAINS Holy Apostles Basilica Rome, Italy	 St. JUDE THADDEUS DEATH Fired with arrows REMAINS St. Peter's Basilica Rome, Italy	 St. PHILIP DEATH Crucified by soldiers REMAINS Holy Apostles Basilica Rome, Italy	 St. THOMAS DEATH Thrust with a spear REMAINS Basilica of St. Thomas the Apostle, Ortona, Italy	 St. PAUL DEATH Beheaded in Rome REMAINS St. Paul's Church Rome, Italy	 St. PETER DEATH Crucified upside down REMAINS St. Peter's Basilica Rome, Italy
 St. JOHN DEATH Died a natural death REMAINS Basilica of St. John Ephesus, Turkey	 St. MATTHEW DEATH Stabbed with a sword REMAINS Cathedral of Salerno Salerno, Italy	 JUDAS ISCARIOT The TRAITOR DEATH Committed suicide after betraying Jesus	 St. SIMON DEATH Crucified REMAINS Altar of the Crucifixion Vatican City	 St. BARTHOLOMEW DEATH Flayed and beheaded REMAINS St. Bartholomew Church Rome, Italy	 St. ANDREW DEATH Crucified on X shaped cross REMAINS Cathedral of Amalfi Amalfi, Italy	 St. MATTHIAS DEATH Crucified in Judea REMAINS St. Matthias' Abbey Trier, Germany

INFORMATION FROM: CHURCHPOP.COM  **CatholicLink**

Source: CatholicLink

Connie Nguyen
ODCCW Interim Recording Secretary

Happy Easter Blessings and
Happy Birthday Pope Benedict XVI!

April 16, 1927 - December 31, 2022



Faith in the resurrection of Jesus says that there is a future for every human being; the cry for unending life which is a part of the person is indeed answered. God exists: that is the real message of Easter. Anyone who even begins to grasp what this means also knows what it means to be redeemed.



- Pope Benedict XVI

THE LIFE OF POPE BENEDICT XVI TIMELINE



WHAT DO EGGS HAVE TO DO WITH EASTER?



Easter is the principal festival of the Christian church, a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion. So where do the colored eggs fit in?

The egg was a widely used premodern and pre-Christian symbol of fertility and restoration. European “Pagans” (a term used to refer to people who practiced a variety of non-Christian traditions) viewed eggs as a symbol of the regeneration that comes with springtime. Early Christians borrowed this image and applied it not to the regeneration of the earth but rather to Jesus Christ. This was also extended to the new life of the faithful followers of Christ.

The tradition of dyeing and decorating Easter eggs is ancient, and its origin is obscure, but it has been practiced in both the Eastern Orthodox and the Western churches since the Middle Ages. The church prohibited the eating of eggs during Holy Week, but chickens continued to lay eggs during that week, and the notion of specially identifying those as Holy Week eggs brought about their decoration. The egg itself became a symbol of the Resurrection.

Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolized new life emerging from the eggshell. In the Orthodox tradition, eggs are painted red to symbolize the blood that Jesus shed on the cross. The egg-coloring tradition has continued even in modern secular nations. In the United States, for example, the White House Easter Egg Roll has been held, with some interruptions, on the Monday following Easter since 1878.

Source: Michael Ray. Fact-checked by the Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica

SPRING CLEANING



Spring cleaning can help you regain a sense of control over the environment in your home, reduce your stress levels, increase your focus, improve your mood, and may even reduce symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Why does spring cleaning feel so good?

It Lightens Your Mood

It's also a reminder that our work is never done. By creating an orderly and organized home, we are exercising influence over our environment. Since there's very little stress or anxiety we can control in our lives, simply creating a more organized personal space can make us feel at ease.

When should I start spring cleaning?

Spring-cleaning can sound like a chore, but the more people you get to help you, the quicker the cleaning goes! A good time to start is March 20, the first day of spring! But if you're reading this after March 20, the rest of March, April or May can still be the perfect time to begin the cleaning process.

5 things to get rid of this spring-cleaning season

- Clothes You Haven't Worn In 6 Months. Ok, I'll admit, I heard this rule from the one, the only, Oprah.
- Old papers.
- Unhealthy food from your fridge/freezer.
- Plastic silverware and cups.
- Random bathroom things.

How do I get motivated to spring clean my house?

How to Stay Motivated During Spring Cleaning

1. Set specific goals. If you want to be productive this spring, you need to be specific about what you want to accomplish.
2. Visualize what your home will look like when you complete your goals.
3. Separate spring cleaning with everyday cleaning.
4. Set deadlines.
5. Take pictures.

Source: Better Homes and Gardens

APRIL 2023

ODCCW 2023 GENERAL GATHERING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Register for our events at <https://odccw.org>

Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:30am

Location: HOLY TRINITY

Speaker: Renee Bondi

Address: 1600 Corporate Dr.

Ladera Ranch, CA 92694

Tuesday, May 16, 2023

MAY CROWNING

Location: CHRIST CATHEDRAL

Speaker: Fr. Chris Heath

Address: 13280 Chapman Ave.

Garden Grove, CA 92840

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Apostolate of the Returning King (ARK)

Sunday, May 7, 2023

1:30 - 3pm

Santiago De Compostela Catholic Church

Parish Hall, Room D

21682 Lake Forest Drive

Lake Forest, CA 92630

Speaker/Topic: Monthly message as given to Anne (A Lay Apostle)

Contact: John or Elena Freeman: 626-757-0478

A Free Will donation to cover expenses will be taken up.

<https://directionforourtimes.com>