

Have you met the risen Lord yet?

Have you?

With all that is going on in the world, it is not like we don't have a need to meet the risen Lord

Take your pick of the social challenges surrounding us today:

Run away national debt

Cuts in social safety net needs of the poor (which means primarily women and children)

Unemployment

Foreclosed homes

Our nation involved in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya

Social uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East

The cost of gas

Deadly tornadoes in Alabama and southern states

No wonder this week we all wanted, and maybe needed, to escape into the good news of the royal wedding.

And so I come back to my original question: Have you met the risen Lord yet, this Easter season?

Have we met the one who can have a profound effect on our daily lives?

How would I even know if I did meet him?

Today's gospel story today gives us clear sign about how to

recognize he is in our midst.

We find the disciples huddled together in an upper room, afraid to face life because of the Jewish leaders who had demanded Jesus crucifixion.

And what does Jesus do? He stands before them and says, “Peace be with you.” Almost every time he appears after his resurrection, he begins with, “Peace be with you”. Then he shows them his hands and side and he repeats his words, “Peace be with you!”. The risen Lord comes right into the pain and suffering of our lives.

He does not avoid life; he transforms it.

We read that a week later that he appears to them and begins with the same words, “Peace be with you”. Then he says to Thomas, “Take your finger and place it in my hand, and take your hand and place it in my side”.

Scripture never tells us whether or not Thomas actually put his finger into the nail marks of Jesus’ hands or his pierced side. It is not important any more whether he did or not. What IS important is that Jesus had brought his peace to this doubting Thomas.

And so I ask you, “Have you met the risen Lord yet?”

I have been asking myself the same question. Last Sunday I came down with a good case of laryngitis. It slowed me down. It’s not an easy thing for a priest to stop talking!

One thing I did do in the middle of the week was to begin reading my little white book. This book which has 6 minute reflections for each of the 50 days of the Easter season. The reflection for the first day began by saying that it would be focusing on the appearances of the Lord’s resurrection. It said that we know if we have met the Lord because the Lord would bring hope to our lives.

Have you felt more hopeful lately?

Our parish theme of the fifty days of Easter is: Alleluia, be joyful, be faithful, go witness!

The theme presumes that we have met the risen Lord.

I guess we all presume we have met him, but how joyful and faithful am I? How much am I a witness of his glory? Have I met the risen Lord lately?

(pause)

Many of us here at Corpus Christi have been involved in the ALPHA program. It is a series of ten week gatherings at which we are invited to develop a deeper relationship with the risen Lord. What struck many of us was how we still had much to learn and deepen in our relationship with the Lord. As weeks progressed, so has our inner peace, our joy and our desire to go and give simple witness that he is in our midst.

Have you met the risen Lord lately?

Last Friday I visited a woman in the hospital. She was away from her young husband and child. When I entered the room a broad smile came across her face and she jumped up to give me a hug. I knew the risen Lord was present. The joy, the removal of fear, and the trust that all things would work out for her pervaded the room.

(this Sunday we baptized young children at the Sunday masses)

Parents and families of the children being baptized today: the greatest gift you can give your child is for you to experience the risen Lord and share with your child the peace, faithfulness and good news which flows from knowing that the Lord is in the midst of our lives.

Yes, the fifty days of the Easter season are all about meeting the

**risen Lord,
in prayerful reflection of the scriptures,
in works of charity,
and in our faith gatherings.**

**We can be confident that we have met him if we see our lives
become more filled with peace and joy and a desire to share the
Good News about the risen Lord.**

**The more we meet him, the more the words of our Easter theme
can become the song of our hearts: Alleluia!, be joyful, be
faithful, go witness.**