

# SALT *and* LIGHT

## The Beauty of Easter Transformation

by Father John Crossin, OSFS

In early spring and even in late winter, we see the natural beauty around us. At the Easter Vigil Mass, we experience light shining in the darkness as we hold our candles. The paschal candle symbolizes the beautiful light of the risen Christ flowing out to energize the whole universe. Christ's energy travels as far as the Hubble telescope can see.

The graceful energy of the spirit of the risen Christ transforms the universe and can transform us. In contrast to the complexity of the Passion accounts with their intrigue, flawed characters, plotting and violence, we can now experience the beauty, the simplicity, and the joy that the risen Jesus brings.

We may begin by feeling like the discouraged disciples on the road to Emmaus. With our eyes clouded by emotions, preoccupations, and distractions, we may not recognize Jesus immediately.

But his interpretation of the Scripture causes our hearts to burn within us. We can recognize him, a little late to be sure, in the breaking of the bread.

We may rush back to our Jerusalems to share the light of Christ with others. We may give witness to his presence in word and sacrament. Now we can see other disciples, friends and colleagues more distinctly in his new light.

Jesus brings light into our darkness. He helps us to see clearly. We learn from him that the Scripture with its truth and its beauty can always be perceived more deeply if seen in the light of faith. The grace of Jesus expands our universe of knowledge and relationship.

In the light of Christ, we can comprehend more profoundly the beauty of the world. Silent contemplation of the physical world, a universe transformed by divine grace, can unlock its beauty.

The matter and energy of the physical world is embraced by the transforming loving energy of the resurrected Christ.

In the light, we can become more appreciative of human artists at their work. They may perceive people and things that we are incapable of grasping or imagining.



David Bryniarski, a parishioner of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Rochester, New York, uses a fine writing stylus to draw designs on an egg.

No wonder that the church community supports the work of artists. Their hearts burn within as they hear Jesus speak, often indistinctly.

In Christ's light, we can encourage all those whom God places in our path to contribute their gifts to the tapestry of the community. All have gifts to share.

What is that light within me that is to be shared for the good of others, for the good of the community? We search for the contribution we can make to the beauty of God's creation.

Thus, we turn to prayer and to discernment. How is Christ speaking to me now? Is my heart burning with some inspiration of the Holy Spirit? Is the example of others pointing out something beautiful I might do for God?

We pray that we may once again recognize Jesus' call as we walk with him.

*Oblate Father Crossin is executive director of the Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops.*

This article was originally published on Catholic News Service's *Faith Alive!*

Copyright © 2016, Catholic News Service—United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Photo: CNS/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier.