



# The Diocese of Mandeville

## Easter Reflections

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APRIL 2016

## From the Desk of the Bishop:

### “Christ is Risen!”



This year, our Lenten journey has been a pilgrimage into the Father’s merciful love. On Ash Wednesday we were marked with ashes to remind us of our mortality and the lifelessness we experience through sin. Lent is a pilgrimage in the sense that we who are baptized will re-enter the waters of Baptism on Easter Sunday to experience anew the Risen Lord who welcomes us into the Father’s house. Lent is also a special time for those who are to be baptized (Catechumens) at the Easter Vigil to grow in their experience and encounter with Jesus Christ. During this time, they have been nourished in a special way by the Gospel of St. John.

On the third Sunday of Lent, the Samaritan woman was an example and model. They come to know Jesus in spite of the trials and inequalities of life and society. Previous life choices do not prevent them from drinking at the well of eternal life. We are invited to have an inner spirit of repentance.

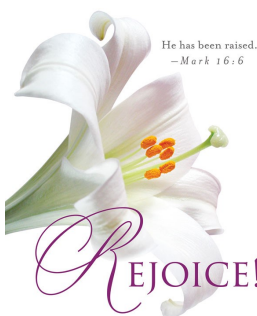
On the Fourth Sunday of Lent they discover that Jesus is the Light of the world. The man born blind helps them to understand that our friendship with Christ is tested. Only as we make real choices that involve dedication and sacrifice do we come to see and bow down in worship.

Finally, on the Fifth Sunday Lazarus becomes their guide. They cannot allow death to snuff out the light of Christ. At times they will feel buried in the tomb with their hands and feet bound because of the pain and losses they experience. They will wait silently for Jesus, moved by the deepest emotions, to call them out of the tomb to eternal life here in the present and for all eternity.

Our Catechumens are born to the fullness of life with our Easter celebration. Born in the waters of baptism, hearts and minds enlightened by Christ, they are anointed as priests, prophets and kings. Filled with the gift of the Holy Spirit, they will be sent out like the first disciples to proclaim the Risen Lord.

The Gospel stories proclaimed during the Easter season are about our lives. Frequently the Agony in the Garden is what we live. We are betrayed and left alone. We ask for this cup to pass us by. The trial and condemnation of Jesus is what we experience as the pain of failure and loneliness over whelms us. Good Friday invites us to pray, “Jesus remember me.” How many people do we know that pray daily, “My God why have you abandoned me?” We all need to hear the Risen Christ say, “Peace be with you.” As we wander, lost and afraid like the disciples on the way to Emmaus, we need the Risen Lord to stay with us and feed us with His Word and Eucharist. Easter is the beginning of a lifelong journey for those Catechumens who will be baptized, and a maturing in discipleship for those who began the journey years ago. All need to know and love the Risen Lord who brings us into the Father’s mercy and love.

As we enter this Easter Season of the Father’s mercy, I pray the Risen Lord touch your hearts with His love and presence. In a special way I ask the Father’s blessings upon our Catechumens who have been born in the waters of the Risen Lord and filled with the Holy Spirit.



He has been raised.  
—Mark 16:6

REJOICE!



We warmly welcome all these persons who will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church this Easter.

**CATECHUMENS:**

These persons have come to faith in Jesus Christ and seek to become full members of the Church through the Sacraments of Initiation

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Wanda Kay Baker
- Demetrius Campbell
- Tamara Holness
- Yasheka James
- Annaliz Chaplin
- Allison Smith
- Stacey-Ann Vassell
- Arshanie Farquharson
- Munair Dawkins
- Dilan Rhoden
- Wentworth Ffolkes
- Opal Baker

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

- Kaydia Brooks
- Lascelles Lindo
- Jason Reid

Andrew Tayler

ST. ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Francine Black
- Joan Ferguson

Michael Campbell

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- John Tracey
- Margetta Bailey

ST. MARK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Shanike Bennett

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ludel Thompson

ST. CROIX CATHOLIC CHURCH

Kayon Whyne

**CANDIDATES:**

These persons, previously baptized in the name of the Trinity, seek full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CATHEDRAL

- Haydian Davy
- Rushane Francis
- Rushaun Francis
- Nathaniel Sardine
- Lenisha Webb
- Michael Wynter

OUR LADY OF HOPE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Doreen Miller
- Janet McNuff
- Roxanne Gayle

Delue Mcleod

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Louie Brooks
- Mrs. Brooks

Raneek

ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Errol Waugh

Dionne Bancroft

ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Imogene Martin Mullins

ST. GABRIEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Khadeen Fullerton

My Spiritual journey has been very bittersweet... Throughout these moments I have been able to prove God's powerful hands hugging me with compassion and much love, especially during my down moments. On this journey, I have learnt that my faith will guide me always, and to survive, I have been using this scripture verse as my guide "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). I used to struggle to be open minded with this scripture. Praise God I no longer do, because I trust more and more in the power of God and on my journey I have been learning that I need to open my heart's door daily and let God in for the fulfillment of his promise!!! Amen

Kayon Whyne-St. Croix, Santa Cruz



Christ is Risen!

Alleluia

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