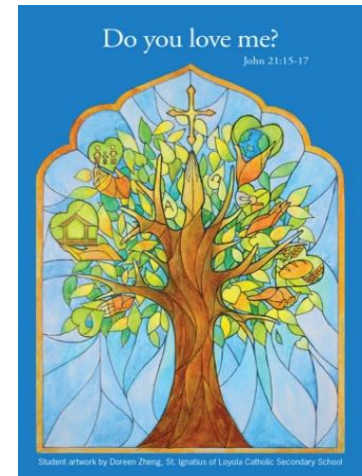


Do you love me? Do the works I do.

As we settle into the Season of Easter and the excitement of the Resurrection ebbs, we might start asking ourselves some deep and difficult questions. We might wonder what difference Easter makes and how Jesus' resurrection matters today. In difficult times like ours that question is possibly more poignant than usual.

Yes, we have that powerful image of Jesus overcoming death itself. We have confidence that we will share in his resurrection in the life to come. This gives us perspective - we see the drama of our life as if from a mountain top; momentary struggles, occasional pits of disillusionment, peaks of joy, times of sadness and eventual triumph. With the goal of eternal life in mind, we can more gracefully bear the trials of the moment. We have hope.



But, in the impatient manner of humans everywhere, I ask, "What about today?" Does Easter change the world we live in and the life we lead now? I want to see Christ's imprint on our earth and hearts today. I want to see the work in progress as we are transformed together.

In the northern hemisphere Easter coincides with Spring and we see hints of transformation as the world around us greens. There is ambivalence. A foretaste of summer is followed by a blast of Arctic air. Spring emerges slowly. God's Kingdom also emerges slowly. Our consciousness as persons and as a society develops slowly, over time, nudged forward by God's grace. But transformation is not just God's work. It's our's too.

In John's gospel, Jesus asks Peter and all of us, "Do you love me?" If we answer with a yes, we are accepting his mission to tend his lambs, to wash each other's feet, to do as he did. Passive admiration of Jesus does not cut it. Love is expressed in action.

We are equipped to do this labour of love. Jesus told his followers, "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father."ⁱ These astounding words are addressed to all those who say yes to Jesus.

How do we activate this tremendous power and responsibility? In all likelihood, we already do more than we realize. Part of the call is to see, to truly see, the spiritual realities around us. Look at the generous and loving responses of people around the globe as we deal with COVID-19. Notice how shortcomings in our systems that were hidden and now are in the open for us to revise. Political will for change to our long-term care and other systems has been engaged. See the sacrifice of our front line workers who put themselves at risk for our sake. The Paschal story is certainly being retold here.

As an Easter people, we believe in people. We see God's reflection in creation, in others, in ourselves. We nurture that divine spark and ask for the Spirit to empower us to be agents of growth, healing and hope. We participate in the transformation that is already happening, through Christ, today.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

By M. Lozowsky, School Chaplaincy Leader, Christ the King CSS

ⁱ John 14:12