

Rectoría de San Juan de Dios
Easter Sunday, Cycle B
Acts 10, 34.37-43; Ps 118; Col 3, 1-4; Jn 20, 1-9
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Let Us Deduce Life

“The first day of the week” ...thus begins this text of the Gospel of John that refers us to the creation narrative in the book of Genesis. As we said yesterday at the Vigil, Easter produces a new creation in those of us who believe in Christ. Nevertheless, to comprehend this new life costs us some work.

Mary Magdalene first, and later Peter and John, were not able to understand the life that sprang from the open Sepulcher. The signs that they encountered were sufficient to conclude that Jesus was alive, but they could not realize that at first. It could be said that they did not realize it because their expectation was of death; Mary Magdalene did not expect to honor a living being but a cadaver. Besides that, they did not deduce life because the mystery was too much for them; they needed a process of assimilation.

We can imagine what that space of communication of life looked like, but how do we deduce the new life of Christ and our own new life this Easter?

We can try the following steps:

1-From our own testimonies

Only if we are able to express as Peter did the way in which we know Jesus will we be able to arrive at incontestable deductions. Peter says that Jesus allowed Himself to be seen by those witnesses whom he had chosen beforehand: “...to us, who ate and drank with Him.” If we give some thought to this, we are the same as Peter; we have

been chosen by Christ and the resurrected Christ has appeared to us ever since we were baptized.

We have eaten and drunk with Jesus in every Sacrament, and we carry in our memories, from infancy, a soul marked by a personal relationship with the living Jesus. We are not fanatics; we do not believe in something that does not exist, but in someone from whom we have received the gift of life and the most profound experience of love.

We recall our personal relationship with Jesus and we go on to deduce that He never died and neither will we, that we are made in His own image.

2-By expanding our spiritual abilities

St Paul invites us, those who have risen with Christ, to “*seek the good that is above*” where Christ is, seated at the right hand of the Father. This means to give up rudimentary earthly good to concentrate on the higher good which is the source of life. Paul uses the verb *phronéō = de phrên = diafragma*; those who heard Paul understood that, just as the diaphragm in a human body does not allow the upper organs to mix with the intestines, those of us who have been resurrected with Christ cannot return to the way we were before, to earthly concerns, but, to guide our existence, we must expand our spiritual abilities.

Each of us can ask ourselves today: What has Easter given me? What are my spiritual abilities? How can they be developed? And we respond simply with a movement of His spirit, deciphering the signs of the life of God that we can already foresee in ourselves and in others.

3-From the experience of the light

We see Mary Magdalene again, and Peter and John. They experienced, at dawn on the first day of the week not only the light of the rising sun that dispelled the darkness,

but the brightness that emerged from the Sepulcher. A tomb full of surprises, feelings, questions, and signs of life.

They discern these signs of life, but they do not comprehend them at first. The new creation, whose epicenter was the resurrection of Christ, begins to brilliantly expand, making the tomb a place of the truth of life, of man, and of God.

The disciple whom Jesus loved ran faster, not only because he was younger, but because he had begun to deduce sooner than Peter the new life of Jesus. John was present at the Cross of Christ; he let himself be illuminated by the light that emanated from that cross. He would have heard the conclusion of the Roman centurion when he declared: *“Truly this man was the Son of God.”* Each Christian who deduces from the light takes his own road; his progress in these deductions comes from the authenticity and faithfulness of his relationship with Jesus.

Peter follows John, not only because he would have run more slowly, but because John, the friend of Jesus, is the one who shows the way.

Today we go to the same Sepulcher and we try to deduce the new life that we have received in the resurrected Jesus. It is fitting that, from the experience of the light, we take care of our friendship with Jesus and that we always find a more immediate path for these realities.