

## SAID ED April 13, 2008

Several of you asked for more information about our recent Convocation with Bishop Clark, so I thought I would share one highlight with you this week. First, each year the Convocation has a central theme. This year's theme was around the Eucharist as an expression of our faith. Two powerful speakers, Theologians and Musicians helped the assembled priests and Pastoral Administrators deepen our appreciation of the centrality of the Eucharist as our primary creedal statement.

There is so much to share, but let me just tell you about one thing that hit me so powerfully. You know when the presider extends his hands over the elements of bread and wine, praying that the Spirit of God will transform these gifts into the Body and Blood of Christ? I have preached this before, but I heard it with new ears: These words are prayed not only over the gifts of bread and wine, but over us as well! We are to be changed into the Eucharist as well! There are some powerful implications to this truth! It makes the message of the Easter Season even more challenging. We are to be the Risen Christ in our world!

The Risen Christ is alive in this community through our generosity and care for one another. It occurs to me that what we are doing is returning in love what love has made! We call that stewardship – the use of our God-given talents, time, and treasure to build up the Kingdom of God. We need to remind one another of this – especially during Easter time. I invite you to write or e-mail me ([palumbos@dor.org](mailto:palumbos@dor.org)) with your stories of where, how, and through whom you've experienced the Risen Lord. We will occasionally celebrate these "starlights" in our midst in this bulletin, to inspire others to let the light of the Risen Lord shine brightly!

Just look around you for signs of the Risen Lord. He is in our midst! I've caught glimpses of Jesus in many ways and in many places recently. Jesus was with us this past week as we offered hospitality to 14 homeless people in the RAIHN program. I saw his face in their gratitude and in the generous presence of so many of our community who cooked and cared for our visiting guests. I saw the Risen Lord in the eager faces of the 120 children who celebrated their First Reconciliation this past week – and in their proud parents who prepared them to meet Jesus in this sacrament.

Soon we will begin celebrating the First Eucharist of 131 children in our community. If you know of a child who is preparing, perhaps you could drop them a little note of encouragement as they look to coming to the Altar to encounter the Risen Christ for the first time. Perhaps you could offer to share your faith with a family who is preparing one of their children. I am sure the parents would delight in having their children hear your faith story. Sharing our faith stories is as old as our Church itself; it dates back to Jesus himself. As the community of Christ's Body, the Church, we are sent to proclaim Christ has risen for the healing of the world.

Keeping the Easter message alive throughout the Easter season and throughout our lifetime is our challenge. It can be done with the help of one another!

Have a great fourth week of Easter!

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