



The Open Door

Open wide the door to Christ! - St. John Paul the Great

APRIL 2019

VOLUME 2.7

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The Resurrection Power of Jesus

If Jesus is truly risen from the dead, that fact changes everything

by Mary Healy

Editor's note: A version of this article appeared in the April 2019 issue of Columbia magazine and is reprinted with permission of the Knights of Columbus, New Haven, Conn.

Imagine Jesus' disciples, huddled together in gloom and discouragement the Sunday after the crucifixion of Jesus. Suddenly, Mary Magdalene comes bursting into the room at the break of dawn with the cry, "He is alive! He is risen from the dead!"

For the early Christians, this joyous proclamation

became the very heart of the Good News that their hearts burned to tell the whole world. They understood — as modern people often fail to grasp — that if Jesus is truly risen from the dead, *that fact changes everything.*

The ancient world knew well that death is the most indisputable fact of human existence. The human mortality rate is, after all, 100 percent. Rich and poor, strong and weak, good and evil alike, all eventually go down into the grave

together, leaving behind all their loved ones, earthly possessions, hopes, dreams, and plans.

The early Christians therefore recognized that if Jesus has risen from the grave, then it is not just a lovely miracle that happened to one person. Nor is it a resuscitation to earthly life like that of Lazarus, who would have to die again. No, in Jesus, *the power of death has been broken.* "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your

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"We exist to joyfully worship God and carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." - Mission Statement of Christ the King

“O death, where is thy victory?”

by St. Athanasius



Now that the Savior has raised His body, death is no longer terrible, but all those who believe in Christ tread it underfoot as nothing, and prefer to die rather than to deny their faith in Christ

This article is excerpted from On the Incarnation of the Word, Chapter 5, “The Resurrection,” by St. Athanasius. This work is in the public domain and is available online at www.ccel.org.

Fitting indeed and wholly consonant was the death on the cross for us; and we can see how reasonable it was, and why it is that the salvation of the world could be accomplished in no other way. Even on the cross He did not hide Himself from sight; rather, He made all creation witness to the presence of its Maker. Then, having once let it be seen that it was truly dead, He did not allow that temple of His body to linger long, but forthwith on the third day raised it up, impassable and

incorruptible, the pledge and token of His victory. ...

A very strong proof of this destruction of death and its conquest by the cross is supplied by a present fact, namely this. All the disciples of Christ despise death; they take the offensive against it and, instead of fearing it, by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ trample on it as on something dead. Before the divine sojourn of the Savior, even the holiest of men were afraid of death, and mourned the dead as those who perish. But now that the Savior has raised His body, death is no longer terrible, but all those who believe in Christ tread it underfoot as nothing, and prefer to die rather than to deny their faith in Christ, knowing full

well that when they die they do not perish, but live indeed, and become incorruptible through the resurrection. ...

Death has become like a tyrant who has been completely conquered by the legitimate monarch; bound hand and foot the passers-by sneer at him, hitting him and abusing him, no longer afraid of his cruelty and rage, because of the king who has conquered him. So has death been conquered and branded for what it is by the Savior on the cross. It is bound hand and foot, all who are in Christ trample it as they pass and as witnesses to Him deride it, scoffing and saying, “O Death, where is thy victory? O Grave, where is thy sting?”

Artwork: The Resurrection of Jesus Christ by Piero della Francesca (died 1492). Photograph of a work in the public domain from Wikimedia Commons.

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The Resurrection Power of Jesus

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sting?” (1 Cor. 15:55) The whole trajectory of human sin, sorrow, suffering, and condemnation has been turned around. The curse has been reversed.

In Jesus’ own earthly life there was a remarkable foreshadowing that helps illuminate what would occur in His resurrection. At the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Even though John’s baptism was a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Lk 3:3), Jesus willingly submitted to it as an act of profound humility and obedience to the Father. His decision to identify totally with sinners meant that ultimately He would have to go to the cross. Indeed, His going down into the water prefigured His death; Jesus later speaks of His death as a “baptism.” (Lk 12:50)

Jesus’ coming up from the water, likewise, prefigured His coming up from the grave. What happened when He came up from the water? As He was “praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him” in the form of a dove. (Lk 3:21-22) It is noteworthy that the Gospel does not say that heaven then closed back up again. The implication is that Jesus lived under an “open heaven.” Indeed, His mission was to bring heaven to earth.

Jesus, in His human nature, had access to all the grace, power, mercy, healings, and blessings



of heaven, and He distributed them on earth. From that day, He was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and went “in the power of the Spirit” to begin His

Our goal in life is not only to get to heaven one day; rather, we are also called to extend the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

mission of making the Kingdom of Heaven present on earth (Lk 4:1,14).

What occurred at Jesus’ baptism parallels what would later happen to the whole Church gathered in the upper room after Jesus’ ascension. As 120 disciples, including Mary and the Twelve, were praying, “a sound came from heaven... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:2-4) The Holy Spirit imbued them with a courage, missionary zeal, and supernatural power that they had never known before.

Immediately, they began to proclaim the Gospel in the same way that Jesus had: not only with words, but with mighty deeds that demonstrated the truth of the words. They healed the sick, liberated those oppressed by demons, brought unity where there had been division, brought joy where there had been sorrow, and brought the light of truth where there had been idolatry and spiritual darkness. And the apostles, through the sacraments, brought the forgiveness of sins and the birth of new citizens of the kingdom in baptism.

It is no wonder that the Good News spread like wildfire across the ancient world and the Church grew exponentially, even during periods of severe persecution. The Kingdom of God was visibly breaking in.

Our goal in life is not only to get to heaven one day; rather, we are also called to *extend the presence of the*

After Jesus’ baptism, “the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him.” The Gospel does not say that heaven then closed back up again. The implication is that Jesus lived under an “open heaven.”

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Images on this page and top of page 4: Gerd Altmann
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The Resurrection Power of Jesus

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Kingdom of Heaven on earth. We need to draw upon that same power of the Holy Spirit with which Jesus Himself was anointed during His earthly ministry. Here are two examples.

- CTK parishioner Dave Love works in an auto mechanic shop. Every now and then, he recognizes that someone has brought spirits of anger, grumbling, and division into the shop, causing a breakdown in relationships. When he prays in the Holy Spirit, taking authority over those spirits in the name of Jesus, he sees the atmosphere dramatically change to peace and joy. *[Note: You can read Dave's full story on page 9.]*
- Dr. Thomas Graves is a physician from Detroit who often offers to pray with his patients. On one occasion, when he was treating a patient with severe anxiety



We need to draw upon that same power of the Holy Spirit with which Jesus Himself was anointed during His earthly ministry.

and depression, the Holy Spirit showed him the specific root cause in her past. He gently brought it up, and the patient affirmed that it was true; they prayed together and she was set free.

These are the kinds of simple daily interactions in which the Lord is waiting to show us His resurrection power, if only we will be attentive to the Holy Spirit and respond in faith and obedience.

Jesus foretold that His resurrection power would be at work in the Church when He said to Peter, "I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (Mt 16:18) Note that gates are not offensive weapons but defensive. Jesus is not saying that the Church would flee before the power of hell but ultimately be rescued. No, the Church is on an *offensive* campaign against sin, Satan, and death. Even Hades itself (the netherworld or realm of the dead) will not be able to withstand the witness of the disciples of Jesus, walking in the victory of His resurrection. Its gates will be broken down and its captives liberated.



Dr. Mary Healy is a professor of Scripture at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and serves on the Pontifical Biblical Commission. She's been a member of Christ the King since 2008 and serves on the Spiritual Life Commission.

"After death something new begins, over which all powers of the world of death have no more might."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Healed of Rheumatoid Arthritis

As the evening continued, the swelling in my hands continued to diminish until it could not be denied.

by Kathleen Iler

In 2012 I was diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis. My hands were especially affected and my fingers were so swollen and stiff that I could not even make a fist. Although I was taking medication for RA, I continued to have pain and stiffness. I had been a performing musician, but I could no longer play my violin or viola. I could not even perform simple tasks like opening a jar.

About a year later, the Damian Stayne conference was scheduled to come to Christ the King. I admit that I was ready to ignore the conference, but I kept feeling a push to attend. I finally yielded and went ... mostly out of curiosity.

The minute I walked into the church I felt an overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit. It was obvious that this was the Lord's plan. Tears streamed down my cheeks during that first hymn of praise and worship and for most of the conference. I was open to whatever God had in mind for me.

On the night of prayer for healing, I did not even think of any healing for myself. I had accepted my new life. From what I remember, everyone picked a partner and prayed for healing. I *thought* I noticed that my hands felt different. I looked at my hands and thought that, maybe, the swelling had gone down. As the evening continued,

the swelling in my hands continued to diminish until it could not be denied.

As I drove home that night, I realized that I could grip the steering wheel with no pain. When I woke up in the morning (when the pain of RA tended to be at its peak), there was still no swelling or pain in my body, except for the top knuckle of my right index finger. I accepted, in wonderment, that the Lord, in His great love and mercy, had chosen to heal me.

My blood tests confirmed that there were no markers for the disease. My rheumatologist could not explain it.

I put my faith in God and stopped taking my medication. When I visited my rheumatologist, she was skeptical, and commented that, in her experience, most people who are diagnosed with RA have it for life. But my blood tests confirmed that there were no markers for the disease. She could not explain it. She continued to see me for three more months and then said she didn't think I needed to return. She just smiled and said, "However it happened, we will accept it."



Whenever I clasp my hands in prayer and feel the normalcy of my fingers, I am reminded of God's great love and mercy

Six years later, whenever I clasp my hands in prayer and feel the normalcy of my fingers or look at that knuckle on my index finger, I am reminded of God's great love and mercy. I believe the one misshapen finger is God's way of reminding me of the disease from which I have been healed. I have not gone back to performing professionally, but teach violin to my grandson with joy in the Lord. Praise God!



Kathleen Iler has been a member of Christ the King since 2001. She lives in Superior Township with her husband, Dean.

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses or failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us."

—St. John Paul the Great



John Hoving is Director of Youth Discipleship at Christ the King and a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

A1:8 Spring Retreat Restored

Retreat brings teens greater freedom in Christ

by John Hoving



The goal of this year's spring retreat was to provide opportunities for inner healing for each of the 110 high schoolers in attendance. We wanted to uproot the lies that the enemy often sows in their hearts and replace them with the Gospel truths of how much they are loved and forgiven by God.

Many benefited from hearing these words from St. John Paul the Great: "We are not the sum of our weaknesses or failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us." This message was shared through a series of powerful talks, small group time, Adoration, Mass, fellowship, worship, and prayer ministry (similar to the Unbound prayer model). The Lord was clearly at work

throughout the weekend as the majority of participants experienced restoration of mind, body, and/or spirit (see the survey results on page 7).

Our guiding Scripture verse was Galatians 5:1: "For freedom Christ has set us free." We all have a tendency at times to forget our identity as beloved children of God. We get stuck thinking that our sins are too big, that God couldn't forgive us,

We wanted to uproot the lies that the enemy often sows in their hearts and replace them with the Gospel truths of how much they are loved and forgiven by God.

or that we need to earn His love. This retreat gave participants a chance to recognize the lies of the enemy, thus giving them power over them, and walk again in the freedom Christ won for us through His passion, death, and resurrection.

The second part of Galatians 5:1 is, "Stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery." We know this is easier said than done, as the goal of holiness can seem overwhelming. Yet hope is restored when we share prayers like this one from Michelle Kazanjian's Morning Prayer for Freedom: "True victory doesn't mean being perfect; it means not letting anything keep me from Your mercy, even my failures."

With this in mind, we wanted to provide more than just a weekend experience of freedom. We were set upon equipping the retreatants with lasting hope and prayer strategies for ongoing spiritual battles.

At the end of the retreat the testimonies began to pour in. There were a few physical healings throughout the weekend, which were amazing. For example, one of my Core Team members gave this report:

[One of the teens] had had a really bad migraine for two weeks. It was so bad she had to stay in bed for parts of the retreat..... In the small

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A1:8 Spring Retreat Restored

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group before the prayer meeting, she asked for prayer for healing, and we prayed over her and proclaimed Jesus's victory over her. Then, we stopped praying, and I asked her how she felt. She felt her neck to see if there was still pain there, then she started freaking out because all the pain in her neck was gone!

For most teens, though, the miracle was how the Lord broke through their fears, doubts, and anxieties. They spoke of an overwhelming sense of peace, joy, and an assurance of God's love, which was more than they had dreamed of or expected. One of them remarked, "God really made it clear to me that He is REAL! It has always been a sort of 'head knowledge' that God exists, and now I know it in my heart!" Others wrote, "I was healed of doubt and it allowed me to dive into Jesus' love," and "I felt God's absolute love for me and felt an incredible amount of joy."

The bottom line is that God desires each of us to experience wholeness! May we declare with boldness that God is who He says



He is, and we are who He says we are: beloved children, heirs, and friends of our Redeemer.



The results of the survey taken at the end of the retreat testify to the impact that the weekend had on the teens who attended.



The Saturday night prayer meeting before Jesus exposed and adored in the Monstrance is a highlight of every A1:8 retreat.

There is power in the name of Jesus

by Kathy Lynch



It all started with a conversation I had with my nephew Mike. He was at a Christian college and was going out to witness on an inner-city street corner with a fellow college student.

They were talking with some people about the Lord when a man who was obviously intoxicated started approaching him and his friend, carrying a knife and threatening Mike. At that moment, Mike raised his hand toward the man and said loudly, "In the

I just stopped, raised my hand, and said loudly to them, "In the name of Jesus, I command you to stop." Immediately, I saw a wave go through their bodies and they stopped.

name of Jesus, I command you to stop." The man stopped but turned and struck his friend with the knife.

I was amazed at his story. Mike didn't understand why his friend ended up getting hurt. I shared that Mike had witnessed the Lord's protection for him when he took authority in the name of Jesus.

Many years later, a similar situation happened to me while I lived in New York State. I was walking and talking with a girlfriend near the college

she was attending. We strayed into a less safe part of that town and found ourselves walking past a large empty lot.

Several young boys were beginning to come over the rise of a large section of rock and began throwing stones at us. My friend tried talking to them to stop, but they continued coming closer and throwing rocks.

At that moment, I just stopped, raised my hand, and said loudly to them, "In the name of Jesus, I command you to stop." Immediately, I saw a wave go through their bodies and they stopped. I heard one of them say, "Let's leave them alone," and they turned and left. God's protection was very real to me that day.



Kathy Lynch is the mother of two daughters and has seven grandchildren. She loves attending Christ the King and is currently enrolled in the Heart of Christ Spiritual Direction Training Program.

If by chance you feel winter approaching, I want you to know it is not the last season, because the last one will be spring:

The springtime of the Resurrection.

Know that your whole life extends infinitely beyond its earthly limits.

Remember, Heaven awaits you!

St. John Paul the Great

Photo by Michael Schwarzenberger via Pixabay, www.pixabay.com.

“You have the authority in you to deal with this”

The enemy doesn't want you to know your identity in Christ

by Dave Love

I work with a pretty rough group of guys. The auto shop where I work is probably about as big as the Worship Space in our church. Every morning after I walk in, the first thing that I do is turn on the Christian radio because that helps me have a good mindset for the day. I want to make sure that I know who I am—a son of the Lord God—all through the day and that I don't lose my peace.

Last fall, the enemy was really working pretty hard on me, and he was really trying to disrupt my peace. One supervisor who comes in and out of the shop was like a white tornado. He was a fallen-away Catholic who was by *far* the most *negative* person that I've ever met in this world. He was always flying off the handle. He could take a peaceful situation and create chaos in a minute.

I went to the Lord and asked, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” This guy had me so frustrated that I was contemplating quitting and going someplace else because my peace was just shattered. And the Lord told me, “You're not going anywhere. This is where I want you to be.” Then He said, “You have the *authority* in you to *deal* with this.”

So the first thing that I did the next time he came to me and was spouting off and saying all this negative stuff about this guy and this guy, I just quietly,



*“This is my shop.
This is the
Lord's house.
And you can't
mess with it.”*

*I just quietly, while we
were standing there,
rebuked that spirit.
And all of a sudden,
something came over
him and he changed.*

while we were standing there, *rebuked* that spirit. And all of a sudden, something came over him and he changed.

The next morning, I grabbed some holy salt from home. I walked into the shop, and every door in that place I sprinkled with holy salt. I went into this guy's office, and I sprinkled holy salt all over his desk, his computer, his chair—any place that he touched, holy salt went there. And I bound a spirit of disruption.

Within a couple of days, he came to me, and it was like he was my best friend! He wanted to give me a raise, he wanted to make me a manager... I thought, “Lord, this is really too funny. This is beyond anything I expected!”

Ever since then, he's been 75% better. There have been no real harangues. I turned the Christian music up even louder, and he started singing along! Recently, someone accidentally punched a hole in the wall with a forklift. The supervisor just looked at me, said, “Oh, well,” and started cleaning up.

He had a buddy who used to ride with him to and from work. He's also one of the most negative persons that I've met. I think they might have rubbed off on each other.

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“You have the authority in you to deal with this”

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He came into the shop one day. He was getting ready to work on a truck, and he was getting all bent out of shape because he couldn't find some plastic to put on the floor so he could do this job. He was interfering with my peace.

So, I walked up to him and said, “This is a peaceful place, and you're messing with my peace. This is my shop. This is the Lord's house. And you can't mess with it.”

“So,” I continued, “you've got two choices. You can either calm down and figure out a

Each and every one of you is a daughter of the Lord and a son of the Lord. Don't forget that, because the enemy doesn't want you to know who you are.

way around it, or I'm going to back that truck outside and you can work outside in the cold. You get a choice. And you better choose right now to calm down or you're going

to work outside because you're not interrupting my peace.” And he calmed right down.

Brothers and sisters, each and every one of you is a daughter of the Lord and a son of the Lord. Don't forget that, because the enemy—this is the best-kept secret—the enemy doesn't want you to know who you are. You have been bought by the Blood of the Lamb, and you have authority in His name.



Dave Love and his wife Carol are founding members of Christ the King. They have been married 51 years and have been involved in many ministries including prayer ministry and prolife work.

“O death, where is thy victory?”

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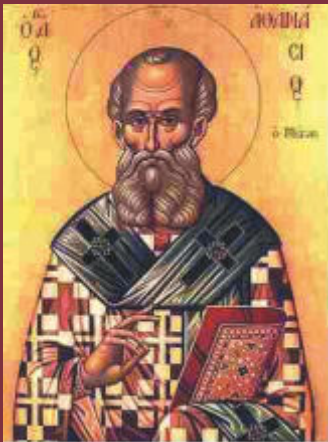
If, then, it is by the sign of the cross and by faith in Christ that death is trampled underfoot, it is clear that it is Christ Himself and none other Who is the Archvictor over death and has robbed it of its power. Death used to be strong and terrible, but now, since the sojourn of the Savior and the death and resurrection of His body, it is despised; and obviously it is by the very Christ Who mounted on the cross that it has been destroyed and vanquished finally. ... How can you think otherwise, when you see men naturally weak hastening to death, unafraid at the prospect of corruption, fearless

Christ Himself gives the victory to each, making death completely powerless for those who hold His faith and bear the sign of the cross

of the descent into Hades, even indeed with eager soul provoking it, not shrinking from tortures, but preferring thus to rush on death for Christ's sake, rather than to remain in this present life? If you see with your own eyes men and women and children, even, thus welcoming death for

the sake of Christ's religion, how can you be so utterly silly and incredulous and maimed in your mind as not to realize that Christ, to Whom these all bear witness, Himself gives the victory to each, making death completely powerless for those who hold His faith and bear the sign of the cross? ...

Doubt no longer, then, when you see death mocked and scorned by those who believe in Christ, that by Christ death was destroyed, and the corruption that goes with it resolved and brought to end.



St. Athanasius (c. 296/298-373) was Patriarch of Alexandria and fought tirelessly against the Arian heresy. His works that have come down to us, in addition to *On the Incarnation*, include a biography of St. Antony of the Desert. Icon of St. Athanasius via Wikimedia Commons.

Schedule of Major Events

- 4/5-6: Alpha Day Away
- 4/6: First Saturday Rosary
- 4/8, 10, 11: Ann Arbor area Lenten Communal Penance Services
- 4/12, 26: Upper Room
- 4/14: Palm (Passion) Sunday
- 4/15: Holy Hour for Marriage and Family
- 4/18: Holy Thursday
- 4/19: Good Friday, offices closed
- 4/20: Easter Vigil
- 4/21: Easter Sunday
- 4/22: Easter Monday, offices closed
- 4/28: Divine Mercy Sunday, Crowning of Mary

For more information about these and other events, check the bulletin or go to www.ctkcc.net.

MAJOR EVENTS—APRIL 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	Apr. 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	May 1	2	3	4

Save the Dates!

Confirmation Mass with Bishop Earl Boyea

Thursday evening, May 9
Please pray for our students as they prepare to be sealed with the Holy Spirit!



CTK Adult Choir Spring Concert

Friday, May 17, 7:30-9pm
Worship Space
Join the CTK Adult Choir for a *highlight* concert of favorite music selections from the past year. Admission is free and open to audiences of all ages.



Pentecost Vigil Mass

Saturday evening, June 8
Make plans now to join us for this awesome celebration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, both 2,000 years ago and today!



Check future bulletins for more details about these and other great events!

Photo on back cover: Heiko Behn via Pixabay, www.pixabay.com.



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Coming in future issues...

- The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Ministry
- Arts and the Church

Look for this and more in future issues of

The Open Door

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We welcome your comments. Please send them to Theresa Hofer at thofer@ctkcc.net.

The Open Door is the monthly newsletter of Christ the King Catholic Church.

*Everything that exists and moves in the Church--
the sacraments, doctrine, institutions--
draws its strength from Christ's Resurrection.*

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa