

**Easter Sunday**  
**Fran Nadolny, OP**  
**April 21, 2019**

Good Morning, Happy Easter! Interestingly, the readings for this morning's liturgy do not really describe the resurrection of Jesus. In the first reading, Peter eulogizes Jesus and tells the story of his ministerial life, his death and rising and walking with the disciples, and his commissioning of all of us to preach the good news. And Paul, in the second reading, tells us that we remain hidden away—buried—until we ourselves celebrate a new life with Christ.

Then we hear the proclamation of the Gospel where everyone is confused and saddened because Jesus is not in the tomb. These readings remind us of our own walking with the reality of people passing away. Since our last celebration of Easter, as we know so well, a number of sisters, associates, co-workers, family members and friends have died. We have gone to their rooms or offices or homes and found them empty. We have had the same feelings as Mary of Magdala and Peter and John: What is the meaning of all of this? We have eulogized them and buried them. They are hidden away from being physically present to us.

However, we are not stuck in today's Gospel story of bewilderment and incredulity because we know that Jesus eventually walked with the disciples, and ate with them, and promised the presence of the Spirit who would help all of this to make sense. As theologian Sister Elizabeth Johnson writes in her book, *Creation and the Cross*, God knows what it is to be enfleshed as we are, to die as we do, and to accompany all creatures throughout the death process. Johnson continues to describe this God involvement with God's simple promise of the "hope of more."

Enlivened, enthused, and renewed with the beauty of today's sunshine and budding trees and green grass and flowers of all colors bursting forth, we truly

believe in the “hope of more” that we see revealed in God’s creation. Believing in the lessons and movements of creation, we can also believe in the “hope of more” that was promised by Jesus for ourselves and for those who have gone before us. On this Easter Sunday, may we continue to be gifted with the promise, the belief, and the signs of the “more” that have already been given to many of those whom we love and will someday be ours.