

# Reflections for Easter Sunday:

## *What does resurrection look like?*

The Daughters of Wisdom's Leadership Team share their Easter Reflections

**Sr. Catherine Sheehan, DW**

As I reflect on this question, I am in Fusagasugá, Colombia. I am here with Daughters of Wisdom from around the world. The past two days, we have been reflecting and discussing interculturality. Maureen Gilbert – a professional in the area of culture – has been guiding us. Interculturality calls for two qualities – an awareness of one's own culture *and* an awareness of another's culture.

Having a degree in Sociology has given me a familiarity with the definition of culture – the attitudes, customs, and beliefs that distinguishes one group of people from another. *Culture* is transmitted, through language, material objects, ritual, institutions, and art, from one generation to the next. Though being familiar with the definition of culture may have helped me in the study of Sociology more is needed to live interculturality.

We all hold certain perceptions or beliefs (sometimes fears) about those whose culture is different than ours. Some of these perceptions may be right, but often enough many are not right. In order to live interculturality, I believe we need to live beyond our expectations. And, this is where resurrection comes in. The witnesses to Jesus' death and those that buried him in the tomb did not expect that in three days he would rise. But resurrection called Jesus' friends and family to live beyond their expectations when they found an empty tomb.

How can we live beyond our expectations, perceptions and fears with those that are different from us? Can we accept people with different values, customs and beliefs? Our belief in the resurrection calls us to do just that and so, this Easter let us celebrate the capacity we have as followers of Christ Wisdom to open our hearts to those who are different than us.



**Sr. Evelyn Lamoureux, DW**



*No one should go to bed hungry!*

My ministry is in the area of Parish outreach in a parish on Long Island, NY. Many individuals come through our doors looking for encouragement and assistance.

As I reflect on what Resurrection means to me in the context of today's world, I have very mixed feelings and thoughts. In the context of the many struggling peoples in today's world, I am reminded of the extraordinary gifts that I have received in my lifetime. And yet, I see Resurrection in the people who come to the food pantry in my parish. The gratitude they express for the small

amount of food they receive is a sign of Resurrection. They know that every morsel of food has been donated by someone in the parish. Someone has taken the time to donate that they might have life.

I see, in the many people coming through the door, signs of struggling and crucifixion, when sickness strikes, or loss of a job is experienced, or accidents occur. And sometimes the resurrection seems a long way off, or maybe – impossible. Mini resurrections occur when one of the volunteers of the parish outreach offers assistance in the form of encouragement or referral. Each time someone offers assistance, a resurrection occurs.

**Sr. Evelyn Eckhardt, DW**

Over and over again I have seen resurrection in the experience of woeful endings out of which God brings forth new life.

I know a man who after decades as a loyal and dedicated employee was given “early retirement.” This undesired ending led to several years of painful searching for another suitable job. Then apparently out of nowhere, he was offered a position that resulted in his receiving better benefits than ever before.

I know a woman religious who for years had a wonderful relationship with a spiritual director. Without warning this supportive accompaniment ended as the director made a major life change. Only then did she come to realize the sustaining presence of God within her in a whole new and powerful way.

I know a woman who having been married for more than 25 years was suddenly told that her husband wanted a divorce. The unexpected ending of the marriage left her with deep feelings of confusion and rejection. Moving through that difficult time, she discovered a whole new way of life reaching out to people she would never have encountered had she remained married.

I believe that stories like these are truly expressions of the on-going mystery of resurrection. The same God who raised Jesus from the dead raises us to new life through the “death” in the endings that occur on our journey. May we have eyes to see!



**Sr. Marie Chiodo, DW**

What does resurrection look like? How, in the Wisdom tradition of God dwelling with experience,



does resurrection occur? Is it only after physical death? Is it possible that the transformation that is known as “resurrection” is happening in real life, in real time?

In the National Geographic documentary, “The Story of God,” Morgan Freeman interviews 37 year old Sujo John. Sujo survived the terrorist attack on the World Trade Towers. He worked on the 81st floor of the North Tower and his wife worked on the 71<sup>st</sup> floor of the South Tower. "As the building is collapsing there are people with me and I'm huddled with them. I felt God speak to

me in a very still voice, I felt God say, 'It's going to be OK.'" His only thought: the safety of his wife in the South Tower, pregnant with their first child. Trapped under fallen debris, Sujo with others prayed and clawed his way out of the rubble. Reaching the street, already mourning his wife and child, his cell phone rings and he hears her voice. Running late that morning, she had never made it to her office. What is “resurrected” life for Sujo and Mary and their children today? He has left his job in the financial world and dedicated his life to helping others as a missionary to India in the fight against sex trafficking. Has “resurrection,” transformation happened to Sujo in real life, in real time?

And so I reflect on the resurrection appearances of Jesus in the Scriptures. What does he tell us of life after death? Or does he? The passages portray the Christ speaking not of what glory looks like or what is in the great beyond. The Scriptures, instead, have the Christ sending the disciples out from the safety of upper room and mountaintop, out to “the whole world”, as “witnesses”, “proclaiming the Gospel” and “feed(ing) my lambs and my sheep.” That message changed Sujo’s life. That, for me, is what resurrection looks like: God dwelling in the here and now, in real life, in real time.