

*LIVING  
the  
SPIRIT*

**Memories of Easter**

*I want to share with you my personal thoughts, at least some of them. On the other side of this insert you will find a more formal writing on the theme of Easter.*

Perhaps some of my readers will agree with me that as we advance in age we seem to find ourselves thinking about our past. Sometimes it is the distant past that is a sharp and clear memory, while what we did yesterday seems to be a bit “fuzzy.” Let me share some memories of a fairly long lifetime. Maybe, you will find yourself thinking about your own. Maybe they will not be much different in some ways.

Easter, as you know, is the great celebration of our faith. Christ, our Savior, who suffered and died, rose from death to bring mankind its needed redemption from sin and death. Yet my very first thoughts about Easter were of a child getting up on a special day, and searching for the Easter basket. For years after and even till now, Easter will be a time with many ways of celebrating with a special joy.

Certainly, like all Catholics given the grace of a good religious education, I came to know something of the meaning of Easter. I learned about its wonderfully rich liturgies. I felt blessed with the Easter holy water. I embraced the Lord in Holy Communion. All this after a confession that gave joy to the soul, and happiness to one’s spirit.

I recall in memory how I was given the tremendous grace of being able to study in a deeper way in those Seminary years. Faith was made very real and came alive with the power of human reason. As a priest, I have never doubted, like Thomas, that Easter brings me the presence of Jesus, my Lord and my God.

How comforting it is to know that Jesus won the victory over death. With the enlivening of faith, we can say with St. Paul: O death, where is your victory; where is your sting? It becomes for us a door to new life. It opens to us the vision of the eternal Jesus. I hope that you share many happy memories of your coming to know more and believe more. I pray that you will realize that we are indeed an Easter people. That is why we sing Alleluia!