



## **What's It Take For "Seeking the Above" to Become Second Nature?**

**Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**

**April 4, 2021 - Easter Sunday**

**Acts 10:34-43 & John 20:1-9 with Colossians 3:1-4**

If you are reading my reflection on the Resurrection, you have heard the story before. Moving from Palm Sunday through the Passion and death to the Empty Tomb is not new to us. But is it second nature? Do we hear one world and speak the other?

The pandemic is still here – people are still passing away – the economy is fragile – social distancing and face masks remain the directive. When we hear the world around us, does the other world naturally or better supernaturally come to mind?

Paul teaches us. "If you have been raised with Christ, seek what is above ... think what is above." There are two ways of seeking the truth, two ways of thinking – below and above. The Sequence is very poetic – "death and life have contended."

What will it take for us to shift from thinking life and death to death and life? For over a year the media speaks as most people think – how many have died. When we hear of mass murder, the reporting is of how many were killed. And on it goes.

Listen to what it's like to seek what is above, to think what is above. Peter tells the story beginning with John's baptism and ending with God entrusting the resurrection to us "the chosen by God in advance." Death was the bridge to the other side!

John is more direct when he speaks to the shift in thinking. He begins with Mary of Magdala seeing the empty tomb and ends with "they didn't yet understand the Scriptures that he had to rise from the dead."

We are chosen to sing "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad" – This is the day – He is risen – He is not here – He is going before us. And we are His ambassadors of reconciliation. Every time we forgive, joy is the end of the story.

To think from above and not below becomes second nature by our responding with forgiving every time violence and disrespect happens. And we, you and I, are chosen to see and judge, to act and celebrate this way. Start with what is sad about evil. Then go through its way. Rejoice! Be glad! Risen Life is the day the Lord has made!

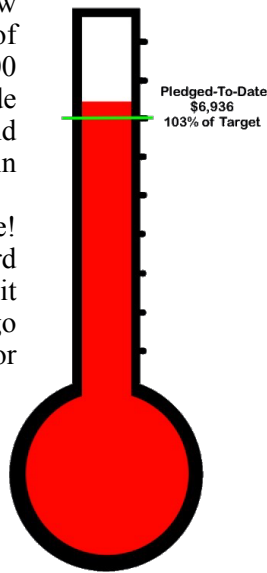
### **2020 Catholic Services Appeal**

#### **WE DID IT!!**

Congratulations to all! We have now surpassed our 2020 CSA target of \$6,736 by \$200! That means that \$100 will be donated to our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry, which provides food and other services to those most in need in our parish community.

Of course, it's not too late to give! Any additional amounts donated toward the 2020 CSA Campaign will be split 50/50 with St. Vincent de Paul. Just go to our parish website to donate, or contact Ed Shea. Note that you will need to specify whether you are donating to the 2020 Campaign, or the soon to be launched 2021 Campaign.

Thank you to all who have donated to the CSA Campaign.



### **Community Meal**

The April Community Meal will take place this Thursday, April 8, via Zoom. This is an opportunity to meet and talk with people in our neighborhoods. Discussions are informal and fun. All are invited to attend. In addition, please feel free to invite others in our neighborhoods. To join us at this "virtual" meal, just go to the parish website.

### **Praise Dance**

Today, we welcome our new Children's Praise Dance Team. We thank them for enriching our worship with motion. We also thank those who helped prepare them - including Stephanie Flounory, Patricia Woods, Anita Pace, Jennie Sinatra, and others. If you have a child/grandchild that would like to participate in future celebrations, please contact Stephanie.

### **Welcome Back!!**

We encourage parishioners to return to the Eucharist, as soon as they feel safe to do so. We continue to livestream Mass for those who are unable to be present. For information regarding Archbishop Vigneron's guidance on attendance at Mass, go to <https://www.aod.org/emergencyresponse>.

#### **Our Mission Statement**

Having reflected on the "four faces of our parish," **St. Peter Claver Catholic Community**, chosen by the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, and under the guidance of Mary, resolves that: 1) we will provide more opportunities for deepening prayer life and faith life for youth, young adults, and adults; 2) we will initiate efforts to reach out and re-connect with those individuals and families who have disconnected from the Church; 3) we will collaborate with other faith communities and organizations within our parish to offer ecumenical events/activities (e.g., neighborhood clean-ups, prayer meetings, health fairs); and, 4) we will utilize resources within our parish community to advocate for education and to promote social justice issues.



St. Paul of the Cross  
Passionist Retreat Center

## Mondays with *mystics*

Monday,  
April 19  
Gregory of Palamas

*Faith Offman will lead this live online experience of exploration and prayer. Using ZOOM, participants will learn about each mystic and his or her spirituality and join in a shared prayer experience.*

*Monthly events will take place on Mondays from 7 - 8:30 pm. Cost is \$35 per event.*



register online at [stpaulretreat.org](http://stpaulretreat.org)

Questions? Contact Cathy at [cadamk@stpaulretreat.org](mailto:cadamk@stpaulretreat.org) or (313)286-2800.

St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center 23333 Schoolcraft Detroit, MI 48223



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Apply at:  
[wwme.org](http://wwme.org)

Questions?  
Terry & Cathy Hirsch  
(888-322-9963)

### *Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Intercessory Prayer Team*

Beverly Alessio, Inez (Retinella) Alls, Florine Anderson, Alberta Asmar, Sylvia Baker, Warren Bridges, Donald & Barbara Carter, Michael Clarence Carter, Johnnie Davis, Peggy Endlein, Ara Grier, Sandra Griffin, Karen Hickman, Myrtis Hildebrandt, Jacqueline Johnson, Bobbie Lewis, Addison Martin, Augusta Martin, Dorothy (Vicki) Martin, Charles Nelson, Joan S. Noland, Nancy Oberhausen, Grady & Celestine Parker, Fred & Villa Ray, Romaine Redd, Flossie Ryles, Jeanne Schuldt, Irene Scott, Gussie Seay, Augusta Starks, Mary Tyler, Christine Versele, Helen Wajda, Anna Washington, Lillie Washington, Carmel Weems, Leonard & Ona Wilson

### *Also, Please Remember in Prayer:*

Wayne Bradley, Olivia Boulden, Christopher Durant, Rochelle Evans, Kiara Harris, Marley Jonah, Mary Caroline Jonah, Johnetta Mutes, Elke Rittenhouse, Elaine Ryles, Terrence Tidwell, Charles Tilghman, Jon Viado, Vickee Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

## Ministers Schedule

April 11, 2021

**Celebrant: Rev. David Preuss, OFM Cap.**

**Minister of Service: Sandra Horn**

**Lector: Alther Redd**

## Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
Monday	9:00 am	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Wednesday	11:00 am	Lectio Divina via Zoom
Thursday	6:00 pm	Community Meal via Zoom
Saturday	10:00 am	Pastoral Team Meeting via Zoom
	2:00 pm	Ladies of Peter Claver via Conference Call
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom

Legend: PH=Parish House; MC=Marygrove College  
Church refers to the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College  
**For the "live" Parish Calendar, go to [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org)**

## Sacramental Preparation

Are you, or someone you know, interested in joining the Catholic Church or receiving one of the sacraments? Please contact Jennie Sinatra at the Parish Office.

## Collection Results

**We continue to rely on your support. Please send your weekly donation to the Parish Office. Or you may want to consider online giving. It's convenient, secure, and totally in your control!**

**Give Online at [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org)**

### *St. Peter Claver Catholic Community*

*Parish Office: 13305 Grove St., Detroit, MI 48235  
(313) 342-5292*

*Church: Marygrove College - Sacred Heart Chapel  
8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48221*

*email: [parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org](mailto:parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org)*

*website: [www.spcccdetroit.org](http://www.spcccdetroit.org)*

**Mass: Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Church**  
*(Check the bulletin for holy days and special services)*

**Reconciliation: Before Mass or By Appointment**

**Parish Office Hours: Parish Staff is currently working from home. Please contact Ed Shea if you require assistance.**

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**Reverend John Phelps, C.Ss.R., Pastor**

*Edward Shea, Administrative Manager/Bulletin Editor  
Cell: (248) 633-4476*

*Jennie Sinatra, Formation Director*

*Stephanie Flounory, Youth & Young Adult Minister*

*Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair*

*LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair*