

**Resurrection scripture passages:**

Matthew 28:1-10      Mark 16:1-8 and 9-14 (longer ending)      Luke 24:1-12      John 20:1-10

**Read the articles about Resurrection below. Share something that you read which you have a question about or which you find significant for you in some way.**

What the early Church believed: Resurrection of the Body

<https://www.catholic.com/tract/resurrection-of-the-body>

Catechism of the Catholic Church—On the Third Day He Rose from the Dead

[https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc\\_css/archive/catechism/p122a5p2.htm](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p122a5p2.htm)

**EASTER MUSIC**

**Below are two of my favorite Easter Songs. What is one of your favorite Easter Songs? Why do you like that particular song? How do the lyrics speak to your heart? How do the lyrics help you grow in discipleship? If you can, attach a link of the song in your response.**

Christ is Risen—Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IExdrZGQVeI>

Because He Lives (Amen)—Matt Maher

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBvU7arNhQs>

**RESURRECTION ART**

**Read John 20:1-10. Listen to Fr. Leo’s reflection on this artwork in the link below. (This painting is discussed between minutes 26-29 of the link, Fr. Leo Discusses 5 Religious Art Works—Peter and John Race to the Tomb)**

<https://www.facebook.com/stmary.stphilip.of.grafton.ma/videos/512284916346800/>

Place yourself in the painting. Are you Peter, John or someone else? Where are you running? Towards the tomb? Away from the tomb? Why? What are your thoughts and feelings on that first Easter? Why do you think the artist Eugene Burnand did not need to portray Jesus in this painting? What might that imply about discipleship? Fr. Leo states that Burnand was an early artist who tried to incorporate aspects of cinematography in his artwork. Many movies today fall flat when it comes to portraying the Resurrection of Jesus. If you were a cinematographer, what would you include in your portrayal of the resurrection?

**NOTES & QUOTES**

**See following page for additional reading regarding Discipleship. What is one passage or quote about discipleship that you would want to share with someone?**

**BEING A DISCIPLE**

“In the first-century world of Jesus, being a disciple was all about one key word: imitation. When a disciple followed a rabbi, he lived with the rabbi, shared meals with the rabbi, prayed with the rabbi, and studied with the rabbi. The goal of the disciple wasn’t merely to master his rabbi’s teachings, but to imitate the way he lived—the way he prayed, worked, trusted in God’s providence, helped the poor, lived friendship, and served the people.

So if we are going to be disciples of Jesus today, we must aim for a lot more than believing a set of doctrines and following the rules of our faith. We must go deeper and consider what’s happening interiorly in our spiritual lives: Are we moving closer to Christ, encountering him anew each day and becoming more like him? Do we intentionally strive to live like him, think like him, and love like him? Being a disciple of Jesus is not about merely going through the motions with our faith—attending Mass, saying some prayers, and avoiding bad things. Following Jesus as a disciple is a whole way of life—his way of life transforming us, his agape love radiating through our lesser philia love.

...being Catholic is something intensely dynamic. It implies movement and transformation as the disciple deepens his friendship with Christ and becomes ever more like him. Indeed, a disciple humbly recognizes two things:

- A. The truth about himself—his many weaknesses, failures, and areas where he falls short of living like Christ
- B. The truth about what he’s made for—being conformed to the image of Christ: living like him, loving like him.

Discipleship is all about moving from A to B. When our Catholic Tradition talks about growing in holiness, pursuing sanctity, and becoming saints, it’s basically describing this process of a Christian disciple being conformed to the image of Christ (see Rm 8:29)

...a mature disciple becomes increasingly aware of how this is not something he can do on his own. ...Our discipleship is a lifelong process of becoming ever more convinced of our littleness, learning to rely on God, and cooperating with his grace as we are slowly being transformed into Christ’s likeness “from one degree of glory to another” (1 Cor 3:18)

Do you sense that movement in you—that desire to go deeper in your relationship with Christ? Do you have a longing to follow Jesus more closely, to be transformed by him, to move from A to B? Do you notice a stirring inside, a longing to love God with all your heart, but feel unsure about what steps to take next?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, know that God is the one who has put those yearnings in your soul. He has already given you the heart of a disciple. Continue to follow those initial promptings of the Holy Spirit so that you may more intentionally encounter Jesus anew each day and be more disposed to the power of his grace molding you, transforming you ever more into his likeness.”

## GO SET THE WOLD ON FIRE

Fire has played one of the most significant roles in the advancement of civilization. The world depends on the warmth and energy of the biggest fire near the Earth—the sun. Without fire, there would be no life. Fire and life go hand in hand.

This is also true of our spiritual lives....Without the fire of our faith, we would be lifeless Christians lacking fervor and energy. We would have no “get up and go”! Fire can be a creative or a destructive force; it is never static but constantly moving, growing, and consuming....

Much as a fire will die out or a circuit will short when it reaches maximum overload, we as a Church have reached what Pope Francis calls “a diagnostic overload” (Evangelii Gaudium, #50). This overload, caused by a flurry of activity coupled with dwindling personnel and financial resources, can smother the fire of parish life. ...we risk allowing our fires to dwindle to bare embers. This danger can be avoided, Pope Francis reminds us, only by an evangelical discernment that prioritizes missionary discipleship.

Do not be afraid to see yourself as a leader in your parish and your Church; Jesus Christ himself is depending on it! We, as leaders in our parishes, must be equipped to see how every aspect of life is an opportunity to go out into the world and make disciples of all peoples (Matthew 28:19) Each of us is asked to bring to others the good news of the gospel and share how it has transformed our lives. This is what God wanted for each of us, and it is the deepest identity of the Church: bringing the Good News to others.

Jesus instructs his disciples to share this good news. How do we do this today? When we do we become witnesses, evangelizers. Evangelization happens in one-on-one moments that are not planned or scripted. We might not be comfortable thinking that evangelization happens outside the parish, but it does and it should! Evangelization aims at transforming hearts (internal change) and the world (external change). Too often, people think that going door-to-door and preaching on street corners are the only ways we can evangelize. But there are many ways that Catholics can evangelize.

Evangelization seeks to transform the world one person at a time. You might be asking yourself. Where do I start with evangelization. You begin with yourself and then move to those closest to you, such as your family and friends. Read below for ten simple “Everyday Evangelization” ideas for you to consider:

1. Develop a love for Scripture. Set aside a few moments every day to reflect and meditate on the Word of God.
2. Pray to cultivate an awareness of how God is working in your life so that you can recognize those moments and share them with others.
3. Hold in prayer someone with whom you have a difficult relationship. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the grace to view this relationship in a more loving light and to recognize moments of opportunity to grow this relationship.
4. Pay attention to the homily at Mass and note one point that will help you grow as an evangelizer.

5. Pray for opportunities to share your faith.
6. Offer a word of encouragement to someone who is struggling. You could send a card, call the person, or post an encouraging note to the person on social media.
7. Make a point of saying “God bless you” rather than simply “Bless you” when someone sneezes.
8. Look people in the eye when speaking, including cashiers in the grocery store, wait staff at restaurants, and door attendants.
9. Volunteer at your local food pantry or homeless shelter.
10. Make a meal for a family or person who might need extra love and support, for example, someone who has just had a baby or is going through the adoption process, someone who has experienced the death of a loved one or a pet or who is transitioning into a new job or going through a divorce or an illness

### **Growing as an Everyday Evangelist**

Choosing from the ten suggestions, above, put a check mark next to the three that you do regularly.

Circle three that you need to work on.

What is your plan for “Everyday Evangelization” for the areas that you would like to grow in?

Who is going to help you grow as an “Everyday Evangelist”?

What two people might you help grow as “Everyday Evangelists”?

Julianne Stanz Start With Jesus: How Everyday Disciples will Renew the Church

## ZOOM SESSION

Icebreaker:	(20 minutes)
Have you ever had a piece of news you were just bursting to share with someone?	
What did that feel like?	
What did you do?	
Prayer—Lectio Divina	(30 minutes)
Explanation of Lectio Divina	
John 20:1-10	
Feedback on Reading Material	(30 minutes)
Music	
Art	
Notes & Quotes	
Catechism/resurrection article	
Announcements	(5 minutes)
Closing Prayer	(5 minutes)