

The Collection Basket

APRIL 2020

Family Life Office
2713 West Chestnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601
(814) 695-5579
familylife@dioceseaj.org

Volume XXXV, Number 4

IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

Family Ritual

"Easterize" Your Home

What signs of Easter joy would a visitor see in your home during the 50 day Easter season?

Here are some ideas:

- an Alleluia sign
- spring flowers next to an opened Bible
- a crucifix with a white cloth draped over Christ's shoulders
- a butterfly mobile with a "He is Risen" label.

What ideas do you have?

Family Life & Missions Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

Jessica Powers: Repairer of Fences

**I am alone in the dark, and I am thinking
what darkness would be mine if I could see
the ruin I wrought in every place I wandered
and if I could not be
aware of One who follows after me.
Whom do I love, O God, when I love Thee?
The great Un-doer who has torn apart
the walls I built against a human heart,
the Mender who has sewn together the hedges
through which I broke when I went seeking ill,
the Love who follows and forgives me still.
Fumbler and fool that I am, with things around me
Of fragile make like souls, how I am blessed
To hear behind me footsteps of a Savior!
I sing to the east; I sing to the west:
God is my repairer of fences, turning my paths into
rest.**

(A Retreat with Jessica Powers: Loving a Passionate God, St. Anthony Messenger Press) Powers (1905-1988) was a Carmelite nun and a poet in Wisconsin.

April 5

**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord**

April 9 & 10

**Holy Thursday and Good
Friday of the Passion of
the Lord**

April 12

**Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of the Lord**



BELIEVE WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING

A young college student, considered to be an intellectual progressive, announced to a group of friends that he would believe nothing that he could not understand.

Another student, who lived on a farm nearby, turned to the intellectual and remarked, "As I drove to campus today, I passed a field in which some sheep were grazing. Do you believe it?"

"Sure," replied the young man.

"Well, not far from the sheep," the student-farmer said, "some calves were chewing on the fresh grass. Do you believe it?"

"Yeah, why not?"

"Well, not too far down the road there was a gaggle of geese feeding. Do you believe this?" asked the student-farmer.

"I guess so," came the reply.

"Well," said the student-farmer, "the grass that the sheep ate will turn into **wool**; the grass that the calves ate will turn into **hair**; the grass that the geese ate will turn into **feathers**. Do you believe this?"

"Sure I do," the too-smart student answered.

"But do you understand it?"

"Uh, no," the intellectual student said, somewhat puzzled.

"You know," said the student-farmer, "if you live long enough, **you will find that there are a great many things you will believe without understanding.**

REJOICE!

Families and the Gospel

April 5 Passion (Palm) Sunday Matthew 26:14-27:66

The cruel death of Jesus tells us bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also tells us God is present during the suffering. Bad things happen but God does not abandon us.

April 12 Easter Sunday John 20:1-9

Today's gospel instructs us Jesus "had to rise from the dead." The dying we experience with unmet expectations in marriage and parenting is normal to family life. Families must rise above disappointments and be Easter people all year long.

April 19 Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday John 20:19-31

"Whose sins you forgive, are forgiven" means the grudges we carry only make us miserable. The Kingdom of God begins in your home where children learn the paths to peace promised in today's gospel through merciful and forgiving demonstrations by their parents.

April 26 Third Sunday of Easter Luke 24:13-35

In today's gospel the disciples were returning home so "downcast" they did not recognize Jesus walking with them. In our homes we can be so overwhelmed with responsibilities we don't see God with us. Today's gospel tells us to stop and open our eyes to the blessings we are to one another.

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Consult Not Your Fears

Pope XXIII



"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.

Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential.

Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."

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