



# CONNECTIONS

news, notes, and inspiration

## Facing the Resurrection

*Archbishop Foley Beach*

Several years ago, James Cameron produced a documentary attempting to convince the world that the grave of Jesus Christ has been found. Although Israeli scholars and archeologists loudly argue against these claims, the production was an attempt to discredit those who for more than two thousand years have proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Claiming to have found the bones of Jesus' mother, Mary, his stepfather, Joseph, Mary Magdalene, and one of his brothers, the documentary argues that this is definitely the burial site of Jesus.

This is nothing more than a repeat of Matthew 28 all over again. There are those who make it their ambition to demonstrate that Christianity is a hoax, and that the Church has been deceiving people throughout its history. They conveniently ignore the eyewitness accounts of people who saw first-hand the risen Jesus. They ignore the archeological discoveries which demonstrate communities which were transformed by believing in the resurrected Jesus. They ignore the changed lives which this resurrected Jesus has affected throughout the years, and they ignore the personal experience which people still have with the risen Christ.

The Gospel message is that Jesus Christ (the Messiah) entered the human race, lived as one of us, died on a Roman cross for sins of humanity (even mine!),

and rose again by the power of the Holy Spirit. The apostle Paul wrote to the first century believers in Rome: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile" (Romans 1:16).

What was true then is still true today. For those who believe, they discover that Jesus is really alive. This is not just a matter of intellectual assent; it is also a matter of belief (of faith). One can learn all the historical, archaeological, and scholarly data, but it always comes back to a simple step of faith. You have to believe.

The risen Jesus said to the church in Laodicea and he says to us: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me" (Rev. 3:20). For those who receive Him today, they discover on a personal basis that his resurrection isn't a hoax. He brings forgiveness of our sins, peace of mind and spirit, and an intimate relationship with the Living God of the universe.

Do your homework! Know the facts; this is important! But don't just leave it there. Enter in to a dynamic personal relationship with the God who still raises people from the dead.

Easter Blessings,

++Foley



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## 2015 Calendar of Events - ADOTS

Apri 12-19	<b>GAFCON Primates Meeting</b>	London
June 16-18	<b>Clergy Retreat</b>	Shocco Springs Retreat Center
June 23-24	<b>ACNA Provincial Council</b>	Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Sept. 16-17	<b>Clergy Ministry Workshop</b>	Holy Cross Cathedral
November 6-7	<b>Annual Synod Conference</b>	Holy Cross Cathedral

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## Easter Day

By John Donne (1573–1631)

SLEEP, sleep, old Sun! thou canst not have repast  
As yet the wound thou took'st on Friday last;  
Sleep then and rest; the world may bear thy stay,  
A better sun rose before thee to-day.  
Who not content t' enlighten all that dwell  
On the earth's face, as thou, enlighten'd hell;  
And made the dark fires languish in that vale,  
As at thy presence here our fires grow pale.  
Whose body, having walk'd on earth, and now  
Hastening to heaven, would—that He might allow  
Himself unto all stations, and fill all—  
For these three days become a mineral.  
He was all gold when He lay down, but rose  
All tincture, 1 and doth not alone dispose  
Leaden and iron wills to good, but is  
Of power to make ev'n sinful flesh like His.



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