

# JOURNEYS

## URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

April 2013

Dear Friends,



Here we are, April Fools' Day and Easter Monday on the same day-- now this is interesting. I guess in the eyes of cynics and others, we Christians are considered fools. But we believe that we are Easter people, and so we celebrate---**HAPPY EASTER, ALLELUIA!**

I write this from Rome where so much has happened these past weeks--the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, a papal conclave, and the election of our new Pope Francis. Present at the final public audience of Pope Benedict, I wondered what would be happening in our church in the days ahead. Then there was white smoke and the "habemus papam" that resounded in Piazza San Pietro and rippled around the world. Such excitement and joy!

Our new Pope has begun sharing his simple style, his love for Jesus, the poor, the church and all of creation. It is a time for us to pull together as church, to return to what is central to our faith, and to reach out to those around us who long for Good News.

"May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds," we have prayed. Do we really grasp that Christ has conquered death? How much do we trust that new life can emerge from even the most difficult and painful experiences? How willing are we to communicate this to others with our lives?

May the JOY of Easter fill your heart forever!

Sincerely,

*St. Elisa Ryan*

### For Reflection

Ponder the words used in the lighting of the paschal candle:

*Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end.  
His are all times and ages; to Christ be glory and dominion, through endless ages.*

- What are the stages and ages of your life, past and present, that you need to entrust to Christ? In what ways do you most desire *new life* to spring up in you?
- How do YOU desire, concretely, to give glory to Christ with your life?



*Angela Merici*

## Scripture Helps

**John 11:25** “Whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

- Listen to Jesus’ words and let him show you what about your person and your life will never die—what is “eternal.” Ask him to help you see how to nurture these aspects of your life.

**John 20:11-16** “Who are you looking for?”

- Pope Benedict wrote, “The early Christians called themselves simply ‘the living.’ They had found what all are seeking – life itself, full and, hence, indestructible life.” (Jesus of Nazareth, Volume 2)
- Ask Jesus to help you reflect on what you are really looking for in your life. Where and how will you find it?

## Other Resources

What better way to celebrate LIFE than by celebrating where we live and breathe? April 22 is **Earth Day**. Make an effort to participate in some special activity and say thanks to God for our precious planet earth. Find some practical ideas at <http://www.wikihow.com/Celebrate-Earth-Day>

Enjoy this visual and musical commentary (even if it’s also commercial!): <http://www.dump.com/willienelson/>

Listen to the classic song “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” from Handel’s *Messiah*, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71q2dppM5bg>



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*In three words I can sum up  
everything I've learned  
about life: it goes on.*

**Robert Frost**

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