

April 15, 2018

Third Sunday of Easter



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Weekly Reflection

Third Sunday of Easter MEMORIES Two years ago, following the death of my youngest sister at the age of 37, I felt the need to be surrounded with reminders of her life and accomplishments. Her final months spent battling an aggressive form of multiple sclerosis were months when her body simply wasted away. After her death I felt a strong need to place photos in my office cubicle and in my home-photos showing my sister in her earlier years as a vibrant, healthy, and sparkling young woman. About a year after my sister's death, I was visiting another sister and noticed that she had only two photos of our late sister in her home. One photo had been taken years earlier and showed our sister as a vital young woman. The other was taken a few months before her death. In that photo, she was in her wheelchair, pale, thin, and feeble. My sister told me that she always wanted to be reminded of the health and the sickness and death, since these were the realities that made our late sister who she really was. This was a moment of great insight for me. Now when I remember my sister, I try to remember her from images of her strong years, as well as images of her final months and dying days. The totality of these images makes up who my sister was. The Easter season gives us many opportunities to remember the totality of what God has done for us. Today, two weeks after Easter, the scripture writers urge us to remember the whole event of the paschal mystery-Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. This is important because every one of us who is baptized has a share in that mystery. We are constantly called to die to sin and rise to renewed life in Christ Jesus.

