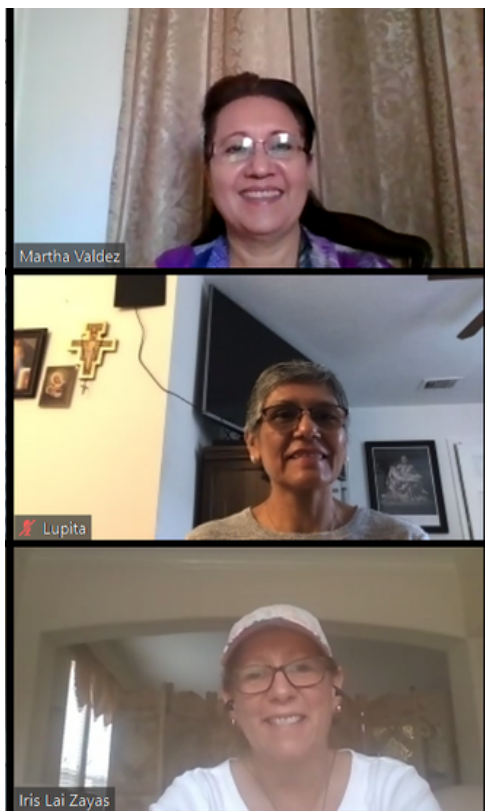


# **CALLED TO BE** *Joyful Easter People*



## **FROM THE UPPER ROOM TO THE STREETS**





## CALLED TO BE EASTER JOYFUL PEOPLE: FROM THE UPPER ROOM TO THE STREETS

He is risen. Alleluia! We have fifty days of celebration and reflection during the Easter Season that will bring us to Pentecost.

In the readings we hear how hope emerges as the disciples encounter an empty tomb. But, then confusion and wonder follow as the risen Jesus appears to them. As they spend time in the upper room, they ponder what comes next. Finally Jesus ascends to heaven and the Holy Spirit descends on them. Their fear is transformed to bold courage as they burst forth, on fire to share the Good News of God's love.

As we prepare to move out of the loss and isolation of the pandemic, this Easter Season gives us a chance to reflect on how God's love is at work in our lives and the world. These weekly reflection Guides can be used in community or individually. They will take you through a process to reflect on your life and the world around you through the lens of the Gospel. To enrich your reflection we offer you our global Maryknoll stories and insights. We hope that they will help you connect with our worldwide family and better discern how God is inviting you to go forth and do justice.

### OPENING PRAYER

Throughout his life, Jesus balanced prayer with action. Create your own sacred space. Light a candle and use symbols. Begin by taking time in silence to enter into the presence of God's love and pray the refrain.

### INTRODUCTION

Read together to introduce the theme. Each week we focus on a particular theme of building the bonds of global solidarity.



#### SEE OUR REALITY

God is at work in our lives and in the world today. Use the reflection questions to share your stories and appreciate how God is present in your life. Then, read together the Global Connection to listen to the stories of others and see how the Spirit is at work in the world.



#### DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

Read the Gospel together. If you have time, read it twice with a pause in between for everyone to share one word or phrase that spoke to them. Then, use the reflection questions to look at your experience and what's going on in the world through the lens of the Gospel.



#### GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE

Discern how God invites you and your community to go forth as missionary disciples to do justice locally and globally. Each week, consider how you and your community can engage more intentionally in prayer, transforming your perspective, and responding in joy to carry on the mission of love.

**CLOSING PRAYER** Conclude with sharing your intentions, an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be, and the refrain.

[More Resources](#)

[Small Christian Communities Info](#)

[All the Easter to Pentecost Guides](#)



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Sister Bitrina Kirway (right)  
and her Maryknoll Sister  
Ardis Kremer (left)

“  
and he  
saw and  
believed  
”

EASTER SUNDAY

# CALLED TO BE HOPE

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Risen Jesus, let us rejoice and be glad.

## INTRODUCTION:

From the horrors of Good Friday to an empty tomb, confusion gives way to hope. The disciples struggle to understand how God's love can survive death and lead to new life. The resurrection brings joy that allows God's mission to continue.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* a story of when something wonderful happened against all odds and when you thought all hope was lost.

## Global Connection:

*Meet* an Easter person: Maryknoll Sister Ardis Kremer who ministered on the Hawaiian island of Molokai.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read* the Gospel for Easter Sunday (Jn 20: 1-9).

*Reflect:* How is the Holy Spirit calling you and your community to be Easter people who bring joy and hope to others?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Think of those who despair. Hold in prayer people who have given up hope.



*Transform*

How do we become Easter people? Read Easter People by Cardinal Tagle. Research how people from other cultures and countries celebrate Easter.



*Respond*

From your research incorporate new traditions during the Easter Season that celebrate hope.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Risen Jesus, let us rejoice and be glad.



Charles Ogony, a Maryknoll seminarian from Kenya serving in Bolivia.

“  
Peace be  
with you  
”

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED TO BE MERCIFUL

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Lord God, show us your mercy.

## INTRODUCTION:

Thomas isn't there when the risen Jesus appears to the disciples and demands proof. Jesus appears to him to allay his doubts. When we struggle with doubt, we can count on God's mercy. It never waivers and gives us the strength to go forth with confidence.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* a story of how you overcame fear or doubt by giving or receiving mercy.

## Global Connection:

*Meet* two Maryknoll seminarians who crossed borders to lend a hand in Bolivia during the pandemic.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read* the Gospel for the Second Sunday of Easter (Jn 20:19-31).

*Reflect* Mercy is love without conditions. How is the Spirit calling you or the community to show mercy to people deemed unworthy of love?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Reflect on what mercy looks like in action using this guide or using the Maryknoll Mercy Posters and ask God to direct you in being a vehicle of mercy.



*Transform*

During the Year of Mercy the Church advocated to reduce global debt. Learn more about how that contributes to global poverty, particularly since the pandemic.



*Respond*

Write to President Biden to encourage him to be more active in eliminating world debt that leads to poverty.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Lord God, show us your mercy.



Kong Chhoeung, who was chained for 13 years. (Photo courtesy of K. Conroy/Cambodia)

“  
Why are  
you  
troubled?  
”

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED FROM FEAR TO MISSION

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Lord, let your face shine on us.

## INTRODUCTION:

Jesus appears to the frightened disciples offering them peace and assuring them that he has risen from the dead. Like them, fear can keep us from seeing new life emerge. Naming our fears and trusting in the Spirit, sets us free to live into mission.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* a time when fear kept you from seeing the goodness in something or someone.

### Global Connection:

*Read* how when people in Cambodia overcame their fear of the mentally ill, it helped transform the mental health system.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read* the Gospel for the Third Sunday of Easter (Lk 24:35-48).

*Reflect:* Fear blinded the disciples. How does fear keep you and your community from seeing the ‘other’? What is one fear that you need to overcome in order to share God’s love with ‘others’?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

List your fears about a marginalized group, and ask God to transform your fear so you can encounter them as a missionary disciple.



*Transform*

Learn more about a group that came to mind as you prayed, as a step to move beyond your fears.



*Respond*

Take a first step of encounter by listening to the stories of the group you have been praying and learning about.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Lord, let your face shine on us.





Pope Francis having a meal in Panama with 10 young adults from around the world. (Photo Courtesy of Brenda Noriega)

“  
I am the  
good  
shepherd  
”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED TO BE GOOD SHEPHERDS

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.

## INTRODUCTION:

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd who lays down his life even for those outside the usual fold. Shepherds accompany the flock, especially those that are vulnerable and lost. Jesus challenges us to be concerned about those outside our familiar circles who need help.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* an experience when someone was a “good shepherd” to you. What about that experience shepherded you into becoming a better you?

### Global Connection:

*Read* how Pope Francis is shepherding young adults from around the world to make a difference.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read* the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter (Jn 10: 11-18).

*Reflect:* As you think of the imagery of a shepherd and reflect on how Jesus ministered, who in our current world comes to mind as needing a shepherd? How is the Spirit inviting you to make a difference in the world?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Ask God for the grace to be a shepherd who cares and leads in the servant way of Jesus. Note where you are feeling called to do that.



*Transform*

Read Pope Francis' challenge to us in: Taking on the Smell of the Sheep and then identify a vulnerable group you want to learn more about. What are the structures that contribute to their situation?



*Respond*

Get to know that group and together with them discern ways to change the structures that make them vulnerable.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.



Members of Maryknoll Young Adult Communities in Seattle, Chicago, New York, Northern and Southern California, during their virtual Advent Retreat, 2020.

“  
I am the  
vine, you  
are the  
branches  
”

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED TO CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly.

## INTRODUCTION:

Jesus refers to himself as the vine and calls us the branches. Being a Christian means being connected to him and a community. The African phrase Ubuntu means “I am because we are.” We are all interconnected in God’s creation.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* an experience when you were able to do something as part of a community that you could not have done alone.

### Global Connection:

*Learn* how young adults are building community with Maryknoll.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read*

the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15: 1-8).

*Reflect:*

How is God inviting you to be part of the global community?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Ask God to show you ways to create spaces where people from different cultures feel safe and welcome.



*Transform*

Learn how other cultures build community and reflect about how similar or different their approach to community is to yours.



*Respond*

Reach out to people from other cultures who might be part of your parish or community circles and get to know them better over a meal or beverages.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly.



Guatemala Immersion Trip

“  
It was not  
you who  
chose me,  
but I who  
chose you  
”

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED TO FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.

## INTRODUCTION:

Jesus calls us to be his friends, remain in his love and then share that love, especially with those who need it the most. For many of us, mothers provide our first experience of love. As we celebrate Mother's Day, we are invited to build on the experience of love in our families and bring it to the world.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* how a member of your family has shown you how to love through the example of their life.

### Global Connection:

*Learn* how Maryknoll Brother, Marty Shea expanded friendship to include those around the world.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH

*Read* the Gospel for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (Jn 15: 9-17).

*Reflect:* Who is the person or group that you find most difficult to love? Why? How is the Spirit inviting you to grow in friendship with them?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Think of those who are yearning for friendship. Hold in prayer those who are alone and feel a deep loneliness.



*Transform*

Learn more about how Pope Francis uses the parable of the Good Samaritan in Fratelli Tutti to teach us what real friendship is.



*Respond*

Reach out to a local St. Vincent De Paul or similar organization that provides services to persons in need, and ask how you can help serve people in your neighborhood.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands.





A youth joins co-op members at a bracelet-making workshop. (Photo Courtesy of Rafael Borja/El Salvador)

“  
So I sent  
them into the  
world  
”

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

# CALLED TO COMPLETE JOY

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Rejoice so that they may share in my joy.

## INTRODUCTION:

Jesus tells the Father that he wants us to share his joy completely. He sends us out into the world with that joy. Not everyone is ready to accept the message of love. Yet, the more we give away God's love, the more it grows in us and the more our joy is complete.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* a story of when you experienced joy by choosing to love in a difficult situation.

### Global Connection:

*See* how Melissa Altman experiences joy while working with a woman's cooperative in San Salvador by [reading this article](#) or [watching this video](#).



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH



*Read* the Gospel for the [Seventh Sunday of Easter \(Jn 17: 11b-19\)](#).

*Reflect:* Jesus prays to the Father: “As you sent me into the world, so I send them.” How is the Spirit calling you to leave your comforts and go out into the world to experience joy?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Pray for someone you know who seeks joy and has not found it yet



*Transform*

Learn more about Pope Francis' roadmap to complete joy by reading the 1st chapter of [The Joy of the Gospel](#).



*Respond*

Choose something that came to mind from Pope Francis' *Joy of the Gospel*, and take your first steps into a joyful encounter with a sister or brother on the margins.

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Rejoice so that they may share in my joy.



Bishop Edmund J. Whalen during the Laying of Hands at Gregory McPhee's ordination to the Maryknoll missionary priesthood. (Photo Courtesy of Octavio Duran/U.S.)

## PENTECOST

# CALLED TO BOLDLY GO FORTH

**PRAYER REFRAIN:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

### INTRODUCTION:

Jesus breathed his spirit on the disciples and sent them out to proclaim God's love. At Pentecost, they boldly engaged people from different cultures. At confirmation, that same Holy Spirit descended on us to continue God's mission of love.



## 1. SEE OUR REALITY

*Share* a story of when you or someone else were profoundly changed by taking a bold step.

### Global Connection:

*Learn* from [this article](#) or listen to [this podcast](#) about how Maryknoll Fr. Greg McPhee boldly left a career as a criminal defense attorney to become a Maryknoll missionary priest.



## 2. DISCERN WITH OUR FAITH



*Read* the Gospel for Pentecost ([Jn 20: 19-23](#)).

*Reflect:* How is the Holy Spirit calling you to boldly share God's love with people from different countries and cultures?



## 3. GO FORTH AND DO JUSTICE



*Pray*

Pray for those discerning their vocation as a missionary disciple, particularly those considering the call to missionary priesthood.



*Transform*

[Learn more](#) about the many ways we can encounter people from different countries and cultures.



*Respond*

Consider [financially supporting Maryknoll's](#) mission education efforts to promote missionary discipleship in the U.S.

**PRAYER** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of  
**REFRAIN:** the earth.



“  
So I  
send you.  
”