

# Rekindle

A Lord's Flock General Assembly Topic

By: Fr. Peter Cheng

April 29, 2023

We have just celebrated Easter. Jesus is alive! He rose from the dead for all of us. This is the good news. This changes our whole identity. God has not forsaken us. We need to be particularly thankful that we are still here, that we survived the pandemic, when many others did not. Therefore, there is a stronger reason to praise God, to return to the Lord and to the community to strengthen our relationship with the Lord.

## A. What are the causes of the weakening of our relationship with God?

1. **We are forgetful.** We have forgotten God's original plan for us - holiness and justice.

- a. During the time of Adam, man and all creation were directly connected with God. But Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command. Original sin destroyed their relationship with God.
- b. However, Baptism restored our relationship with God as we become children of God, our identity.
- c. Furthermore, with Resurrection, there is new life. We are united with the death of Jesus Christ. We are called to a life of holiness so that we will have beatific grace to see God face-to-face.

2. **Secularism or Materialism has eroded our lives.**

- a. Idolatry is the opposite of holiness. Other people or things have replaced God. Our attention has been diverted to worldly idols or material things. Instead of going to church on Sundays, people go to stadiums, concerts, and other places, which have brought us farther away from God.
- b. Pastor Rick Warren who was invited by the Pope to the conference of families stated: "Sin has been normalized, crime sensationalized, the sick are euthanized, families live in a manner uncivilized, God has been marginalized, faith has been compartmentalized."

c. **Our religion has become an accessory or an add-on to our lives.** It has become just one of the aspects of our lives that we need to take care of. However, we must practice religion as a virtue. God gave us everything; thus, we always need to give thanks to God. Similarly, it is right and just to thank our parents – that is "filial piety".

## B. How do we strengthen our relationship with God again?

1. **Renew the importance of the Eucharist in our lives.** The Eucharist is the glorified body of Jesus Christ present in all the altars. It is not just bread and water that we partake; it is Jesus coming to us. It is not just any word, but the Word of God that we listen to.

2. **Worship God every Sunday.** We give thanksgiving when we go to church. So, we should go back to mass in the church. The Church is an assembly where we all gather as a community. When we continue to hear mass online, we are not receiving the sacrament. We cannot sustain our relationship with God when we are separated from God and the community.

3. **Evangelize the lost.** We must invite people to an encounter with the Lord. When we spread the good news, we spread the joy of the Gospel, and will be rewarded in heaven.

4. **Let faith in the Lord lead our lives.** Our work, choice of movies, all that we do must be worthy of the joy of the Gospel.

**Conclusion:** We are not ordinary people. We are children of God. God is our treasure and our ultimate home is heaven. Therefore, give thanks, give your time, talent, and treasure to enrich the kingdom of God.

### Reflection:

1. How often do you go to church? Do you go only on "BKL" (binyag, kasal, libing)?
2. How will you strengthen your relationship with the Lord starting today?

**Transcriber/Writer:** Sis Jo Advincula

**Approved/Final Edited by:** Sis Vera I. Tuplano

**For more teachings, visit our website:**

<https://lordsflock.org/teachings/digests>

**Tags:** #Resurrection, #Rekindle