

OLD TESTAMENT:

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-27

(Psalm 104:1-2+10, 12, 13-15, 24, 30, 35b)

Exodus 14:15 - 15:3, 13, 18

(Psalm 18:2-4)

Baruch 3:9, 15-21, 32 - 4:4

(Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11)

EPISTLE:

Romans 6:3-11

(Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23)

GOSPEL:

John 20:1-18

## **THERE'S AN UP-RISING HAPPENING IN OUR CHURCH**

**April 7, 2007 Easter Vigil**

Jane Via

There's an up-rising in our church. Say it with me: *There's an up-rising in our church.*

There's an up-rising in our church, a holy rebellion, a non-violent revolution in our church. It's happening around the world. It's the resurrection of the People of God.

Brazilian Cardinal Hummes spoke to the media about the need for the church to reconsider its ban on married priests. More recently, the married bishops, priests and deacons of Brazil published a document on the sanctity of marriage and the holiness of married priests, freeing them from excommunication and authorizing them to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and minister the Holy Sacraments. *There's an up-rising in our church.*

**Charismatic healer and exorcist Archbishop Milingo of Zambia, Africa, married a Moonie! After a brief separation ordered by the Vatican, he returned to his marriage and later ordained four married American men bishops! He was excommunicated, but insists that he is not calling for a change in Catholic doctrine. He has only one goal, to restore the married priesthood of the Holy Scriptures to our Church because Jesus chose married priests first. *There's an up-rising in our church.***

Chinese bishops are ordaining new bishops without consulting the Vatican and have ignored Vatican threats of excommunication. *There's an up-rising in our church.*

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India is considering a proposal to include women in all its decision making bodies. If the proposal is adopted, the percentage of women will increase to 50% within a year. This proposal is supported by Archbishop Fernandes of Gandhinagar, secretary-general of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of

India, who stated, "We need to respect and give due dignity to women in all fields."  
*There's an up-rising in our church.*

In Europe, seven women were ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 2002. Now more than a hundred women and one man are in the program preparing to be ordained. *There's an up-rising in our church.*

Even in the Vatican, the Holy Spirit may have paid a visit! A retired British policeman, a non-Catholic, recently visiting St. Peter's, photographed the beautiful light streaming into the church while the Pope spoke from a darker corner. He saw only the light until his film was developed. On the photo, in the midst of the rays of light, appeared a luminous, female shape. The Holy Spirit was in St. Peter's on Good Friday, just yesterday, when Capuchin priest Raniero Cantalamessa preached. Preacher to the Papal Household, the only person allowed to preach to the pope, he spoke at length about the women followers of Jesus. His homily was based on the best available, contemporary New Testament scholarship. The implications of his homily were broad. He preached to the Pope and a world wide televised audience. *There's an up-rising in our church.* Bishop Willie Walsh of the Killaloe Diocese in Ireland recently called publicly for priests to marry. *There's an up-rising in our church.*

Across the U.S., the people of God said "no" to the bishops' cover-up of child sexual abuse by our priests. We would rather give up our parishes than ignore the victims. In the northwest, a number of California dioceses and organizations have scheduled the first lay Synod ever for June 2007, at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. And here in San Diego, *you* are an up-rising. MMACC is an up-rising. A woman priest parish is an up-rising. Gender equality at MMACC is an up-rising. When Jan Jarboe Russell publishes her article about you in the New York Times, Catholics around the world will be up-lifted. Your ministry of hope will extend around the world. *There is an up-rising in our church.*

There is a worldwide, irrepressible surge of the Holy Spirit in our church. An up-rising *and* a rising-up! We are Easter people coming back to life! We are resurrection people coming to life! We are the leaven in the dough of the reign of God. In the grand scheme of things, we may be only the size of a mustard seed. But faith the size of a mustard see can move the mountain of the church.

God? God is weeping with joy. Jesus sighs a great sigh of relief; and the Holy Spirit is dancing to the heartbeat of God, to Her heartbeat, to His heartbeat. As the Carmelites Sisters of Indianapolis, publishers of the Inclusive Language Liturgy of the Hours, pray daily: Glory to You, Source of our Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.