



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

WEEKLY LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR KEN

How is your memory? That is a question that can be of great concern, especially as we get older. However, it is a good question for all ages. There are many facets to memory. The one we most relate to is memory as a reservoir of facts and information that we can call to mind as needed. A great example is Jeopardy! Didn't we also think of this model when in school--"Why do we need to know this?" ! Let's face it, a lot of the knowledge we gain over the years we simply store in our brains and either rarely or ever bring it to consciousness.

Another form of memory can be grouped under the heading of habit. These are things that we learn that become automatic for us, a part of our day-to-day living. A good example is tying your shoes. Once you learn it, you don't have to think about it. In fact, that's often the goal of learning, to teach us things that help us to live our lives. This kind of automatic memory comes in handy in our jobs and regular responsibilities.

There is yet another form of memory that includes both of these types, but adds another dimension, emotion. Negatively, we are impacted, even scarred by bad memories. A tragic example for our faith concerns stories of those who were yelled at in Confession. That bad experience often impacts their faith, some avoiding confession as a dangerous place for years. Positively, a married couple will have a warm place in their hearts for the place where they were engaged, or their first date, or a special anniversary.

I'm sure by now you're wondering what does all of this have to do with Easter? Ask yourself: Which of these types of memory best describe your understanding of Easter? For many, it is only an idea that is stored in their memory bank that they call to mind once a year. After the date, it simply goes back into the drawer of their unconscious until next year. How sad!

I hope it's a combination of the last two types. I hope that it has become a part of your daily living. As Pope St. John Paul II declared: We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! The implication is obvious, that this is for all year long. Because our belief in the Resurrection changes our identity, we can face the challenges of life with a feeling of victory and peace. Because the Resurrection is a part of who we are, we are joyfully drawn to the Mass to celebrate our faith. It should become habitual, even automatic, as we seek to be alive and devout Catholics.

Like the apostles on that first Easter morning, the joy and surprise of Jesus' rising from the dead, the empty tomb, his victory over sin and death, should have a lasting and unforgettable impact on our lives and how we live. That is the kind of memory we should have for Easter. I pray that for no Catholic, Easter is just an ordinary idea that is stored in our memory only to be dragged out once a year, having no impact on our lives or how we live. We should never forget Easter, because Jesus is Risen and alive today! Happy Easter!

"Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32)