

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith in Laity Corner*



**Lent 5**  
**Monday, March 19, 2018**

**Year 2/Cycle B**  
**Ez. 37: 12-14 Jn. 11: 1-45**

### ***The Living Dead***

In my home country of Trinidad and Tobago, our older folks would classify a nice person who hardly spoke, interacted with anyone and spent most of their time in the shadows of life, as being like *'the living dead'*. Mind you, this was not a derogatory term, but used to describe someone who did not argue, or raise their voice and went about daily tasks without complaint, murmur or objection to whatever life would throw at them. One could conclude this was their approach to life, rather than some external forces literally *'deactivation the humanness.'* In our world today we do have a new population of the *'living dead'*, the likes of which were never before seen.

This week the readings will be taken from the Scrutinies for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, different from the regular Sunday 5 of Lent, Year 2. For those new members in your parishes who have been praying and attending classes, over the past year to be able to join us in our Catholic faith on Holy Saturday night Mass, this is for them. Your parish RCIA class members reflect and are reminded of what this Catholic faith entails its truths, laws, and practices. So at some Masses where there are candidates, the readings will be different.

Today I am using these readings as the center of my reflections. We are reminded in the Gospel of those witnesses to one of the most powerful signs that Jesus was the Son of God; clearly demonstrated by the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Not only did Jesus prove to all who were willing to believe, that He had power over the illness of the living, He was now to

show, as the psalmist said, that even death had no ‘sting’. The reading from the Prophet Ezekiel states what gives us life- is the Spirit of God. Without this ‘Spirit’ we are dead.

*“I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life.” (Ez. 37:14)*

Yes, we are the *living dead* without His Spirit in us. Our lives reflect this living ‘Spirit’ these are our actions guided by conscience, respect for the rights and needs of others, there is provision for the poor, imprisoned, the old and the weak.

Jesus in the New Testament extends what it means to have this ‘Spirit.’ He declares Himself as the giver of life and will allow those who believe to also continue to live and to develop a living Spirit of caring.

*“I am the resurrection and the life;  
whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live.” (Jn. 11:25)*

Jesus offers us to be a part of His alive and giving Spirit. In the midst of bridges collapsing, decaying and declining White House images, questionable Congressional integrity, marginalization of minority groups and the unwillingness to face the reality of dangerous weapons in the hands of anyone makes us all unsafe. Jesus called us to rely on Him for our life, over our weapons, our 401K’s, our corporate shares. For us to obtain this eternal life we must believe in Him as being our source for all that we need.

*“Even now I know that whatever  
you ask of God, He will give you.” (Jn. 11:22)*

Do we have to understand what is happening around us? No, we never will. Did Martha and Mary understand why Jesus arrives after their brother died? Yet like them, we are confident that Jesus did not come on this earth to die and rise from the dead for us to just live, died and that is the end.

*“I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day.” (Jn. 11: 24)*

Sadly, for so many of us, living means just for the now, the immediate- without any

thought or a concern for what is higher than ourselves, what is larger than we are, what is more, noble that we could ever be. There is the feeling that this frail body will be able to withstand all injuries- drugs, weight loss, liposuction, cheating, deception, greed and all the other abuses we impose on it. Yet, if that is all we see of ourselves we are then 'living dead'. Limited by our very imperfect human capacity, where there is no discussion or evidence of reflection on what happens next. If we continue to operate on this slowly eroding base one can be classified as alive, but dead to what is beyond. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, estranged from Him and His life-giving power and grace – the living dead we are.....

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*Let us pray for our country that violence will be controlled not by more arms and ammunition but by the gentle guidance and grace of a God who came to give us life.*

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Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's reading written by

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