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In the Faith of Peter ¹

Abba,

One person's faith

Cannot exist in isolation.

My' faith is always something I express

As 'One-of-the many'.

Faith is always an experience

Of the faith of Your Church !

It is always given its Christian character

By the BODY of Christ

– "Members one of another", ²

And necessarily, shares its CORPORATE identity, in Christ.

When one's faith wavers,

It is the faith of Mother Church

That supports us – acting FOR us ;

When one's faith is strong,

It is but a fuller expression of the Church's faith,

Working through an open heart.

Indeed, "it shows how faith leads to faith" ³

... The faith of one, bolstering the faith

Of various, often unknown, others !

Yet, in the paradox that is the Reign of God,

*The Body's own faith,
The faith of the Church itself, RESTS
On the faith of ONE person – PETER'S!
And Peter's faith ...?
"It was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you,
But my Father in heaven".⁴*

*Abba,
That You have BUILT Your Church
– GATHERING us together, as Your People –
On the rock of Peter's confession of faith,
IS A MYSTERY of Your Love
... For which we lavish You with the most heartfelt thanks!*

*Abba,
That the faith of Christ's Bride, the Church,
Is so utterly dependent on the faith it inherits from Peter
With all his frailties and limitations –
Is TRULY HUMBLING!
All this is a mirror of that Divine humility,
Wherein God's initial home among us,
Was but one human cell!
Abba, how wonderfully and deeply
You treasure our humanity!
And how mysteriously,
You INCARNATE Your Paschal love,
In the simplest processes of our history!*

Ultimately, ours is the faith of a fisherman

... Given EXPRESSION

In the self-same faith of today's Pope.

Even Mary's faith

– The faith of the Icon of the Church itself –

Is given voice and words

THROUGH Peter's confession of faith

... A declaration now forever OURS :

“You are the Beloved the Chosen One

The Son of the Living God !”⁵

Abba,

May our communion of faith

– Animated by Peter's faith –

“Strengthen” all of us, his brothers and sisters, in Fellowship⁶

Unifying us in Your peace :

“One Body, one Spirit ... one Lord, one FAITH !”⁷

1 Poem 800, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 2, February 2007. (February 22nd:The Chair of St Peter)

2 Rom 12:5 (N.R.S.V)

3 Rom 1:1

4 Mt 16:17

5 Cf. Mt 16:16

6 Lk 22:32

7 Eph 4:4, 5

To Imagine, in Christ, Is to Create ¹

*The way we see ourselves
Is the way we become ourselves :
Imagery sculpts our being !
But such human 'seeing' is often
Unfocused, unintegrated, or wilfully unbalanced ...
And so, our self-knowledge can be sketchy and unsatisfying.
Others can supply extra useful perspectives for us,
But still, our quest for a fuller self-knowledge remains elusive,
With our lives unfulfilled, or shallow, or lacking direction.
Simply, our 'SEEING' is essentially, inadequate.*

*Because many of us deeply yearn to become
Who we are, in GOD'S sight,
We also need to learn to see ourselves
As God sees us –
That is, WITHIN the Fellowship of the Divine.
This is a PURE GIFT that we can but await, with patience
... With trusting, faith-filled hope.*

*Thus, our graced destiny ... our deepest grace ...
Is to ALLOW God
To gaze into our heart's eyes.
Abba's love-filled contemplation of us,
His doting Fatherly gaze,*

Is life-bestowing, and, literally creative

—Creative of WHO WE'LL BE !

And who can we become

... But Jesus,

Abba's OWN Beloved ?

For Abba has eyes

ONLY for His favoured Son :

It is IN His Image

— A reflection of Abba's own —

That we are sculpted

... With the tender, affectionate Hands

Of our loving, indulgent Father.

We also need to RETURN Abba's lingering gaze,

But only WITH the Beloved's gaze

... With our spirit coming gently to rest

And at peace with, who we are, in Christ ...

Gazing on Your Face of Love, Abba.

Our earthly life

Needs always to be a living hologram

Of this MUTUAL GAZING

— The real and immediate source

Of our true identity, and transformed Paschal consciousness.

Yet within the SUCCESSIVE reality of TIME,

*This identity and consciousness
Is always an interplay of influences
From our past, present and future.*

Indeed, to mature – to have our destiny realized in God's eyes – we NEED

... With the enabling grace of the Spirit ...

To RE-IMAGE from whom we CAME,

To IMAGE who we are NOW,

And to IMAGINE who we are TO BE.

Our enabling ICON for each, needs to be – JESUS ASCENDED'

... At home, in the arms of Abba !

For the PAST ...

To REMEMBER, is to call to mind the IMAGE

Of the Easter Beloved, who first

LIT UP OUR SPIRITS

... For our heavenly homecoming journey.

To remember is also to breathe thanks ...

And because, such "gratitude is the memory of the heart", ²

Our hearts need to focus always, on Him

To whom we BELONG

... For home, is where the heart is !

For the PRESENT ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Delight in communing

With our Easter Beloved ...

Present in everyone and in everything we meet.

Thus, we are being DRAWN into ever deeper union

–With those in whom we behold His Presence

–And with Abba, who fathers us all, IN His Beloved.

For the FUTURE ...

Our Paschal identity and consciousness

Allow us to IMAGINE

Who we are to be, IN Christ Ascended !

He is that enlivening and enabling Image, FOR ALL who live in Him

–The Eternal Template for all humanity !

To thus imagine ourselves in Christ,

Is to have our desires empowered.

It is to share in Christ's OWN CREATIVE IMPULSE

Especially in our RELATIONSHIPS.

Such 'enabling' creativity, happens only IN the Beloved,

Never IMPERSONALLY.

Jesus Ascended is that TRANSFORMATIVE HUMAN BEING,

That wondrous Other, IN whom we come to EXPERIENCE

How we become our true selves

... THROUGH others, with others, and ultimately, IN others !

This REMEMBERING, IMAGING, and IMAGINING

Does not come in one mutual gazing, one communing !
While of its nature, wholistic,
This grace of ‘contemplation’ wondrously, is a PROCESS
–Of simplifying, of being led ever more deeply,
–Of being drawn, open-endedly into an ever-arising Sunrise.
Our images of the God of Love arrive, through GRACE,
Successively, accumulatively ...
Yet still ... breath-takingly, overwhelmingly ...
And always ... always as sheer GIFTS
–To the delight of Christ’s Ever-Creative Spirit !

This delighting Spirit

Creatively weds human images,

With every word

That comes from God !

We cannot come alive

Within God’s Love,

Without Divine words

And earth-born images.

Both come together ...

In Jesus Ascended,

The Son of earth and heaven !

WE come together, in Him,

In His “new humanity”... ³

As “an altogether new creature”, ⁴

For, “in Him is a new creation”,⁵

In whom “all has become new !”⁶

This divinely-human word-imagery of the Spirit

Gently, slowly, suffuses our consciousness :

... Re-configuring our minds,

“Renewing us by a spiritual revolution”,⁷

... En-Spiriting our consciousness,

As Christ’s own,

... Until, resting in peaceful wonder,

Within Abba’s gaze of Love,

We behold ALL , IN Christ !

Thus we become, ever more one, with whom-we-see

... Delighting in sharing Abba’s REFLECTION, in Christ.

All the while, we are being drawn into the eyes of Goodness, Luminous with Love !

1 Poem 801, Marian Valley Retreat, Day 3, February 2007.

2 St Mary of the Cross McKillop 3 Eph 2:15 (N.R.S.V.) 4 Gal 6:15

5 2Cor 5:17a (N.R.S.V.) 6 2Cor 5:17b (N.R.S.V.) 7 Eph 4:23

Love Keeps On Loving ¹

Love keeps on loving
... *For Love knows only to love !*
Love always loves
... *For Love is Eternity !*

Alive in Christ,
We're alive in TIME –
Yet glorying in ETERNITY
... *An ETERNITY OF LOVE !*

¹ Poem 802, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry. Woolloowin Community, March 2007.

To Live Vowed Religious Life ¹

*To live vowed religious life ...
Is to be consecrated, in the Holy One,
Uplifted on the altar of the Cross,
To become one with the Crucified One,
Sacrificially available
... So others' lives
Can be regenerated with their own,
Through the Spirit of Jesus Risen ;
And then in the flowering and fruiting of this sacrifice,
To be again uplifted
—Incorporated within a whole community of spirits reborn —
Within the Arms of Divine Intimacy
... All in Jesus Ascended !*

¹ Poem 803, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, March 2007.

Light Circulating through the Body ¹

*“Anything exposed by the LIGHT will be illuminated,
And anything illuminated, TURNS INTO LIGHT.” (Eph 5:13)*

We cannot choose what we do not know ...

So, how we ‘IMAGE OURSELVE’S’

Either limits, or liberates –

Our openness, and giftedness to others,

... Within the Kinship of God .

As “members, one of another”, ²

In the one Person of our Easter Beloved,

Nurtured by His self-same glorified Precious Blood,

We are AS A PURE PASCHAL LIGHT to each other

... The Beloved’s risen, ascended BLOOD becoming AS LIGHT for us :

The Blood that lights up our persons, being that of Christ !

This Precious Glorified Blood

Fires our consciousness,

Filling our hearts with LIGHT

– Hearts that themselves become FONTS OF LIGHT

Circulating LIGHT through the BODY

... That is BOTH Christ’s, and ours !

*This LIGHT nurtures, transforms each glittering cell of our being
... As we “become an altogether new creature”, IN Christ! ³*

*This transcending brilliance of the Divine
Shines ALIVE also, through our imagination,
... Setting it pulse with an elevated creativity!*

Hidden from worldly spirits,

It suffuses our every emotion ...

Making our feelings TRANSLUCENT, like our Beloved's.

Irradiating our very wills with the glory of humility,

It conforms us to Christ's will, in the moment of His death.

We become, IN Christ, AS LIGHT to each other,

With varying degrees of radiance

... Luminescing through each other, IN Christ.

Communally ONE, we retain our personal distinctiveness,

Ever being love-lit, by that Transcendent Light

—THE SPIRIT, who lights up all God-seeking hearts!

This LIGHT is our GIFT to each other

—IN Him, who is “the Light of the world”! ⁴

*En-Spirited with His Joyful LIGHT,
We become welcoming GOOD NEWS LIGHT
To “those who live in darkness”⁵
... Drawing them to Him, who is “the light of life”!⁶
This ultimately, allows them to share
That wondrous Paschal Light
... Coursing through the arteries of an uplifted humanity ...
Which so lights up the Face of our Loving Father !*

1 Poem 804, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Lent, March 2007.

2 Eph 4:25 (N.A.B.)

3 Gal 6:1

4 Jn 8:12

5 Lk 2:79

6 Jn 8:12

Destiny Realized ... Yet Beckoning ¹

Abba's Reign of Love ...

*ALREADY fully enraptures our lives,
But is NOT YET fully realized ins us ;*

Abba's Kinship of Love ...

*Is, AT ONCE, Holy and Pure,
But is ALWAYS IN NEED of reformation ;*

Abba's People, IN Christ,

*Through grace GAZE FULLY into the heart of Love,
But STILL SEE PARTIALLY "as through a glass, darkly." ²*

At all times, through the light of grace ... THE LIGHT OF GLORY concealed ...

We are ONE in God's Fellowship

And THREE in our RELATIONSHIPS

To God who is Lover !

To God who is Beloved !

To God who is Love !

Joy Blossoming into Peace ¹

*As Love enfolds us ...
Tenderly drawing us to Their heart,
Their delight in us
Births JOY within our hearts
... As the Spirit "overshadows" us. ²*

*And as summer follows spring,
And as fruit follows blossom,
PEACE suffuses our whole being,
And settles gently, in our spirit's depths.*

*Yet, being Love's COMMUNION GIFT,
Peace sends forth JOY, again, as its herald
... Opening further hearts, to welcome Love.*

*Yet, we do not give this peace AWAY
... Because, it is not only undiminished,*

But ENHANCED

Within us,

*As it passes into other hearts
—Because, we possess it TOGETHER !*

1 Poem 806, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 1.

2 Lk 1:35 (N.R.S.V.)

Thirsting for Abba ¹

To me, it was given ²
That my life, henceforth,
Would be one of suffering,
Of Gospel suffering ;
In particular,
The suffering of LONGING ...
Of thirsting for Abba
– In OTHERS,
And the song I'm TO LIVE
Is this ...

“Our hearts are bursting
Our spirits, thirsting
To share Your Love ! ³
All that WE ARE ...
Thirst for You, Abba
... To gaze on You, Christ Jesus,
In Your SANCTUARY
– There, to behold Your Glory !”

1 Poem 807, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 2.

2 “Given”, at Eucharist, Feast of St Joseph.

3 A quote from my own poem – song, Days of Sunshine, Nights of Love, Poem 354.

What Absolute Abandon ¹

*Abba loves us with utter passion,
With absolute abandon ...
Outpouring ALL His Divine Goodness,
Every conceivable delight
Of His Divine Imagination –
On US who are gathered together in His Beloved !
Every fibre of our being,
Every spiritual chord,
Vibrates to Abba's vivifying touch !
And every yearning cell of ours
Resonates, and keeps on resonating in hope ...
To receive Love's Word !

Abba wants to possess us,
And to be possessed by us, IN Christ,
And is ecstatic with joy
As His Spirit suffuses ours !
Abba is so enraptured with us,
That He transcends His Divine Self,
Abandoning all He IS
... In total trust,
In utter bliss ...
To us,
THE BELOVED OF HIS HEART !*

O Dearest Abba ! O Passionate God !

Most delightful of lovers !

Why ever do we look elsewhere ?

Why ever focus our eyes on another ?

– You, are Love ENTIRE !

Fore-give ¹

TAKE from others

... And the mainstay of your life

Will be taken from you.

KEEP God's gifts to yourself

... And God will keep His Face

From you.

"GIVE, and a full measure will be given to you :

Shaken together, pressed down and overflowing." ²

"FORE-GIVE, and you will be fore-given",

For God gives to those who hate Him,

Loving love into their hearts.

Do likewise : give FIRST !

¹ Poem 809, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

² Lk 6:38

³ Cf Mt 6:14

The Contemplative ¹

*All contemplatives need to nurture
A Holy Saturday spirit
– Watching, waiting, wishing,
In silence, in stillness, and in solitude –
For Easter’s revivifying Fellowship
To rise in our hearts.*

*While bearing the imprints of Calvary’s Cross,
Our Paschal hearts yearningly await
The enfolding of Abba’s Embrace
... The fragrance of Divine Intimacy.*

*Faith watches in silence ...
Hope waits in stillness ...
Love wishes in solitude ...
– To be enveloped
By the Ascended Jesus’ Gift, of the Spirit.*

*We long for this Paschal Spirit to draw us –
Into the cosmic mind of Christ,
Into His ever inclusive heart,
And into His missionary spirit
... “Go, make disciples of all peoples !” ²*

¹ Poem 810, Gold Coast – Monthly Retreat, Lent, March 2007, Day 3.

² Mt 28:19

The Christening of Our Self-Imagery ¹

Unlike words ... IMAGERY, for us
Occupies that space
Midway between mind and body
... Owing something to each.
Thus our human images,
Even while registering the imprint of our minds
They equally respond to, or are transformed, enhanced, modulated by,
An exotic mix of cerebral CHEMICALS !
This brain cocktail
Of adrenaline, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin,
Can directly change our behaviour, and sculpt our destinies,
And importantly DO so, by co-impacting on our self-imagery
... Chemically !
Furthermore, our image metamorphoses and responds
To the IMPRESS of our FAITH and thereby
... To God's Presence within ...
—Thus CHRISTENING them !

Thus, our Christened imagery, unlike God's words to us :

---- Can be charged with adrenaline

ENTHUSIASMING US with the wonder of our brother Jesus WITHIN !

---- Can be buoyed up with dopamine

DELIGHTING US with the pleasure of giving, of embracing,

And of being tenderly forgiven ;

---- Can be modulated with serotonin

COLLECTING, calming, and coordinating our emotions

Allowing them to HARMONIZE with the Spirit of Concord ;

---- Can be enhanced with oxytocin

SUSTAINING OUR BONDING AND NURTURING ... long term,

Affirming our communion with the God of Relationships.

Contrarivise, human imagery can be co-opted to opposing purposes

... Whereby, we are –

Enticed by our lust,

Beguiled by our greed,

Dictated to, by our thirst for power and control,

And so, accumulatively BECOME :

De-energized by our laziness,

Depressed by our low self-esteem,

Debilitated by our irresponsibility,

Deluded by our deceptiveness,

And manipulated by our expansive egos !

Such an abuse of self-imagery
... Does not remain a SERVANT –
Of our transformation into Christ's perfect humanity,
Or of a humanity, ever more alive to the Divine
... But can quickly become a SLAVE –
Of self-seeking emotions, open to becoming addictive,
Of self-effort, feeding off a spurious independence of spirit
– Isolating us from reliance on God, and on others,
– Spurning the COMMUNION, arising from Christened self-imagery.

Yet ... resurrected by GRACE, uplifted by LOVE,
Our sin-sullied self-imagery
Can be transformed,
Graced sacrifice ... by graced sacrifice ...
Christlike choice ... by Christlike choice ...
Into the Living Self-Image of Abba, CHIRST,
Into a life lived IN our own Easter Beloved, WHO IS
... Abba's openness TO US
... And our openness TO Abba !

Your Creative Utterance ¹

In Hebrew, to SPEAK is to CREATE : ²

Your Word, Abba, is Your creative action !

Your speaking-to-us,

Your Word-to-us,

Creates a humanity in Your Image !

As Your Word become flesh,

Your creative action is embodied, amongst us !

And, for those who receive this Word, in faith,

Your creative Paschal action is embodied, WITHIN them

... And they embodied IN Him

– The Risen and Ascended EXPRESSION

Of who You are, Abba !

Indeed, Your Word having been thus uttered ETERNALLY

To us ...

“Shall not return to You empty,

But shall ACCOMPLISH

That which You purpose,

And SUCCEED in the thing

For which You sent it !” ³

O Abba ! How wondrous is Your Word

Among, and within us !

1 Poem 812, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 They are the same word, in Hebrew.

3 Is 55:11

NOTE: See also allied Poem 631.

O God of Desire ¹

O God of Desire within us
– ‘*The thirst and the quenching,*
The hunger and the satisfaction’ – ²
Transform our famished yearning for You
Into Your Beloved’s-for-others.

Most Beautiful Love,
Open us, to thirst as You thirst.
Fill us ! Quench us ! Deluge us with Yourself !
... As we drink in Your words,
And feast on Your sweet will !

Beauty, Most Lovable,
Open us, to long with Your longing,
So we may belong as You belong
– *Within Your luminous Fellowship*
... Where all received, is given.

*Love, Most Beautiful,
Open us, open our famished hearts,
To yearn, for Your Loveliness !
Fill us ! Delight us ! L lavish us with Your Presence !
... So we may become, to You
What You are, to us –
Lovably human !
Lovably divine !
And never more lovable, as on Your Cross !*

1 Poem 813, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 This couplet, anonymous author.

NOTE: This poem as prayed by the author, at Eucharist.

Heart-Stricken ¹

*In the pain-filled steps of Love's own Son,
Those who sacrifice themselves for others
In their torturous journey up Calvary's hill,
ARE,
Like Jesus –
Tainted, by envy, gossip or spite
Scourged, by being devalued or deceived
Weighed down, by rejection, abuse, or bullying
Wounded, by inequality, injustice, or exploitation
Nailed, by violence, betrayal, or abandonment
Pierced, by despair, hopelessness or low self-worth
Crucified, by lack of love or hatred.*

*Only someone-NOT-God,
Would be unmoved !*

*Heart-stricken,
Abba waits
... Lovingly ...
For the dawn
Of their Easter morn*

The Openness of the Human Spirit ¹

A spirit is one OPEN to Mystery ... to Love ... to God.

A spirit's essence is to ABIDE WITHIN all other spirits

... Within God's Spirit.

What restricts a spirit's openness

Is NOT, 'being embodied',

But 'being enfleshed' by an insinuating worldliness.

Thus, it is the Easter Spirit of Holiness

Who, in re-vivifying Jesus with His body,

En-Spirits us, AS HIS BODY

... Freeing us to share in His victory over the world and sin.

Thus en-Spirited, and freed of the world's grip,

All spirits, IN Christ

– Who now “BELONG to each other” – ²

Are free to co-indwell each other,

To abide in love, within all other such spirits.

Thus, WITHIN the Spirit of God,

They present but one Face to Abba

... That of His Beloved Easter Jesus

– Sharing in HIS utter openness

To the Mystery of Love

Alive in Abba !

1 Poem 815, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Holy Week, April 2007.

2 Rom 12:5

On the Periphery of Ourselves ¹

Sin is self-marginalization :

Seduced, we increasingly live on the periphery of ourselves;

Constantly distracted, we lose focus of our 'centre'

And increasingly decline to journey INWARDS.

As we highlight to others – the pace, the novelty, the glamour

Of our external pursuits,

More and more we neglect

... The call of Silence, the voice of Stillness, within.

As we increasingly indulge the senses,

And eagerly move from one sensual experience to the next,

We disconnect from Creative Reason, governing all,

And through fickleness, fail to engage our own spirit.

As our values become more relative, more 'relevant',

– Shaped by trends, human respect and sheer impulse –

We become unanchored ...

Adrift from our integrating centre or 'presence' within

... Be that FAITH or other core beliefs.

Thus sin, like its parent, Satan, is full of illusion

– Breeding mistrust, even mocking what is true and good in us.

The sin-tainted shadowland we move through

Like actors in some meaningless parody –

Hollows out our human spirit ...

Persuading us that self-transcendence is nonsense.

*And if this is the 'fate' of one person – what of communal sin ?
Indeed, the 'ENTITLEMENT' effect – of communal greed, of a lust-permeated society,
Of the exploitive arrogance of the rich as a group,
Or of a racially dominant class ... can be terrifying !
What of communal sin's capacity to enmesh and entangle lives ?
Of societal and cultural half-truths that entice many
Into a world of prejudice and of unreality ?*

Jesus' response ? "I am the light of the world : the way the truth and the life." ²

*Following Him, imitating Him, letting Him live His Life in us
... Allows us to share His VICTORY over sin AND worldliness,
... Emboldens us to TRANSCEND ourselves :
To LIVE-FOR-OTHERS !*

*Calvary ENLIGHTENS us ...
Leading us to experience, with Jesus,
That suffering can ground us in reality,
And that His invitation to sacrificial love
... "Take up your cross daily,
And follow me" ³
Draws us to His Transforming Presence within,
And to the Fellowship of Love
–Alive in our hearts !
–Alive in all Easter communities !
–Alive in His Paschal Body, the Church !*

1 Poem 816, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Good Friday, April 2007.

2 Jn 8:12 and Jn 14:6

3 Lk 9:23

Co-Thirster ¹

(JESUS:)

O God-seeking heart !

Thirsting brother-sister of mine !

“My choice withdrew you from the world”: ²

You are not to be OF this world, ³

Nor BELONG to it ! ⁴

I “send you INTO the world

As Abba has sent me into it ...” ⁵

Your being-in-the-world

Will be like my being-in-the-world,

And that of My Spirit ...

Whom “the world CANNOT ACCEPT,

Nor even SEE,

Much less recognize !” ⁶

Like me, CO-THRISTER for Abba,

The world will REJECT you !

And CRUCIFY you ! ⁷

You are thus to be IN the world,

But not OF it !

Fire your courage !

For, "I have overcome the world" ⁸

... Within my heart,

And, thus also, for "WHOEVER remains IN me!" ⁹

You too can share this 'conquest' ¹⁰

Of the world and sin !

And thus IN me, your life, even now,

Is 'Eastered' like Mine

—For Abba's Embrace

By the Spirit of Glory !

1 Poem 817, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Easter Week, April 2007.

2 Jn 15:19 3 IBID 4 Jn 17:16 5 Cf Jn 17:18 6 Jn 14:17 7 Cf Jn 15:19-20

8 Jn 16:33 (N.A.B.) 9 Jn 15:5 10 Jn 16:33 (J.B.)

Transformative Tragedy ¹

*It has been said,
“We can feel a single life makes little difference ;
THAT is why, Christ gave us the CHURCH.” ²
The church can embrace ANY tragedy
Because it has the EUCHARIST
... Constantly re-enacting Christ’s wondrous Pasch.
In taking any tragedy to its heart,
The Church centers it within the Paschal Mystery
Thereby transforming it,
And being itself, IN ITS MEMBERS, transformed
... Not only in outlook
But in their IDENTITY – with the Paschal Jesus.*

*More specifically, it is Christ Himself who embraces the tragedy,
And all who are affected.
He draws all, who SO DESIRE, into His sacrificial Calvary experience,
So as to uplift, regenerate and re-empower, from within –
The very lives of the participants of the tragedy.
Thus, for these, who are OPEN TO TRANSFORMATION,
It is an Easter opportunity
To be embraced with the encompassing arms of His Church
... Even, if some know nothing
Of being thus enfolded, Eucharistically.*

1 Poem 818, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

2 Unknown author, from LIVING FAITH booklet.

Embracing the New, in Christ ¹

To open to, and to embrace

The new

We need the faith of the CHURCH

... Visioning the new, with the mind of Christ ;

It is this FAITH

That , in transcending what has been,

INCORPORATES the new

Into the radical reality at the heart of the church ...

Namely, the transformative Ascended PERSON of Christ

... With His "Behold ! I make all things NEW !" ²

¹ Poem 819, Year 9 of Prayer Ministry, Woolloowin Community, Eastertide, April 2007.

² Rev 21:5