



If today you were arrested for being a Christian ...

Now that the ashes are gone from our foreheads, how will the world know that we are Christians? Hopefully the manifestation of who we are – Christians - is not limited to blessed ashes on our heads, tattooed images of the Saints on our arms, holy words on our clothing, and chained crosses around our necks. If we are not to be counted amongst the hypocrites that Jesus warned against in the Ash Wednesday-Gospel (Saint Matthew VI: 1-6, 16-18), the epiphany of who we are – Christians – must be more than that: much more!

Please don't let Christ stay buried within you. Return to the Lord in the Sacrament of Confession/Penance/Reconciliation, nourish His Presence within you by actively participating in Sunday Mass, and through works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, allow Him to rise again at home in your relationship with your wife and father, at work in your relationship with your boss and co-worker, at school in your relationship with your teacher and student, and wherever else you find yourself in relationship with others. It is this active Catholicism, born from a relationship through, with, and in Jesus the living God that will bring joy to family life, joy to the work place, joy to the classroom, and yes – even in Lent: *joy to the world!*

This is what Christians do because this is what Christ did! He did not remain buried in the tomb. The power of Love raised Him from the dead and drove Him into the Upper Room (as truly as He was driven into the desert) where fear of being known as His disciples, locked the eleven in a state of inactivity (cf. Saint John XI: 19). There-in He breathed on them the Spirit and sent them into the world to put into action the *dramatic missionary growth* (cf. Bishop Barres, *Message for Lent 2017*) that made disciples of all nations! And they did it without ashes on their foreheads. They did it with much more than that. They did it with Love, and everyone knew who they were! (cf. Saint John XIII: 35)

... would there be enough evidence to convict you?



OHR PARISH LENTEN PROJECT



Our Holy Redeemer is happy to welcome home Thomas Travis, Ph.D., Saint Joseph's College to assist us in kicking off this year's Lenten Project which invites parishioners to use a portion of our almsgiving, to aid a small, economically impoverished barrio of Subtiava, Nicaragua with a Catholic education. An education that encompasses "Preescolar San Jose" --a preschool serving over forty 3-5 year old children, as well as a scholarship program that will connect parishioners with over children who now attend a well-respected elementary/secondary parochial school near the barrio. Dr. Travis can be contacted directly at ttravis@sjcny.edu for more information.