



Cluny Connections
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Province of USA & Canada

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Thank you.

Happy Resurrection to all! This time last week I wasn't quite sure ... who would have guessed four inches of snow the day after Easter? And the weather didn't get too much better for the rest of the week...but today we have sunshine!

When I was younger I remember how I used to puzzle over Easter and Christmas. No matter how many times I had heard the "greatest of all feasts was Easter" I still had this vague doubt that really, wasn't Christmas more important? After all, the four weeks of Advent were more fun, and the decorations, and Christmas trees, and presents of course, I guess I was truly a child of the consumer generation, nuns and Catholic school not-withstanding.

I must have been about 25 when, as a young professed, I actually got "in touch" with faith. I owed rediscovery to a tiny, frail, elderly Jewish lady whose name I did not even know. One of the young sisters had a close encounter with poison ivy. While my itchy, swollen friend disappeared into the inner recesses of the ER, I settled in the waiting room. Soon the clanging of the emergency vehicle sounded, and there was a flurry of activity as an elderly man was wheeled in on a stretcher. His elderly wife took her seat as they rushed him through. I tried to comfort her, until finally she stopped me and in anger said, "You Christians, you try to make everything all right with your talk of heaven and a loving God, I cannot believe." She told me of how she and her husband had escaped the concentration camp when it was liberated. They were saved by their gift of music, immigrated to the States where they, as well as their daughter, were all concert musicians. She could not believe there was a loving God after losing so much, and if her husband died she too, she said, would join him.

I never saw or heard from her again, and yet for days I thought about her story. Eventually I realized that she had taught me more about faith than I had ever learned in theology classes. I *could believe* in the Resurrection and that faith was entirely a gratuitous gift from God, which I could never earn or deserve ... I could only be grateful for it. Jesus is Risen, indeed, Alleluia!

Sister Anne Marie

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