

9.5.68

13.5.71 ✓

21.5.73 ✓

30.4.79 ✓

Regina Codi (Dec. 0.20)

Haec Dies (Pdys) "This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice &amp; are glad - Alleluia"

May the Risen Christ keep me young for God's greater glory - young, that is, optimistic, active, smiling, perceptive.

Some old people remain surprisingly alert, active, fresh & young in spirit right to the very end of their earthly lives. On the other hand, the legends of eternal youth, the hopes of rejuvenation pills and the claims of cosmetic firms arouse from time to time great fascination and interest in the idea of life without end. The trouble is, this is all fantasy - life as we know & experience it in our universe is a precarious & limited thing: it's got its own built-in destructive mechanism, the changeableness & decay of matter. We can't really imagine what it would be like - even the greatest joys & happiness we can experience satiate us & begin to pall. Poets, artists, musicians sometimes have captured in their work a glimpse of heaven: but even the most dedicated pitman knows in his heart that the idea of heaven as one long unending fishing holiday would eventually get pretty boring. Other people even reject the notion of heaven because it seems so endlessly boring - though one would suspect their notion is rather too limited and tied to human imagining. Of course the most, or the best we can say about life after death is always only an approximation based on human experience - but it is life, therefore not something static or futile; it certainly isn't a question of sitting around on fluffy clouds strumming harps all day for eternity.

In this Easter season, as we celebrate the risen life of Christ, <sup>the thought</sup> of eternal life should exercise our minds, even though we can't really grasp it and may not get very far. We know with certainty that Christ, who lived a human life like us and died as we will (despite pills and cosmetics) is alive with a life that's not limited by space or time. His resurrection is our salvation and hope - and that's why it's important to fix our attention on this new kind of life that's His now and will be the fulfillment of our own lives. We've always got to keep our end and goal in focus - otherwise we'll get lost & bogged down in the affairs of this life: but at the same time we're not meant to stand gazing up to heaven, forgetting what's going on all around us and the needs of the world in which we're to live and work. The truth of the matter is that we've already begun to live with a risen life which is not subject to death and other limitations of mortal existence. That's the meaning of Baptism, the sacraments, being a member of Christ, in his body the Church. It's most important to appreciate & realize this. There isn't such a radical discontinuity between this life and what we call the "next life" as a lot of people imagine. A lot of <sup>the</sup> mythology and misunderstanding which the word "heaven" conjures up could be avoided if we understood what it means to be with Christ, in Christ, sharing

DER-E-10 2<sup>10</sup>

a Modern Easter Song  
"you shall see Jesus"

Think about it for a few moments now, while  
we listen to the old (Latin) hymn on the Resurrection  
of Christ (I believe) <sup>10th</sup> Alleluia, by the American composer Randall Thompson

MUSIC - PRAYERS  
RTHK  
G.E.S.

This life in our world. Attempts to describe heaven must fail miserably if we go off into an area of abstract reasoning and imagination and fail to keep Christ in the center of things. He, after all, is our link, our Way - there's no other - and His revelation of our Father's love and His plan for us, is all we've got to go on. He came to give us abundant life. It is life: it's a family life of love, the infinite life and love of the persons who are the Trinity in one God: a family life we've brought into being and with Christ, and only through Him. Perhaps the best earthly image of heaven we can get is the life, joy & happiness of a very happy, natural family whose members know and understand each other pretty well, who really live for each other and are still learning to know and enjoy life as each other together. In the life to come we'll simply never know God fully - but always be learning to know & love Him better, together with all our brethren in Christ.

