



One of the most beautiful prayers of the Easter Season reads: ***“In Christ a new age has dawned, the long reign of sin is ended, a broken world has been renewed, and humanity is once again made whole and the joy of the resurrection renews the whole world...”***

*Imagine if those words would resonate in today’s world; a world of promise and hope and yet a world so very fragile and broken.*

*One of the early Fathers of the Church, St. Irenaeus wrote that **“The glory of God is the Human Person fully alive.”** But that Glory - that hoped for reality - does not come easily.*

*Jesus shows us what it means to be human in God’s understanding and shows us the cost of discipleship. Jesus not only says but lives the reality that **“the Father and I are one.”** That kind of intimacy comes at a very high price, and his life of self-giving love and the cross tell the story.*

*To be a Disciple of Jesus is to follow the shepherd.*

*Following Jesus is not for the timid, the easily broken, the self-centered, or the self-righteous. To love as he loved, and to care as he cared, can only be done if we live our lives with passion.*



*Mother Theresa tells the story that **“One day I was walking down the street and I saw a man sitting there looking most terrible, so I went to him and shook his hand (and my hand is always very warm), and he looked up and said, “Oh, what a long, long time since I felt the warmth of a human hand.” He brightened up, he was so full of joy that there was somebody that loved him, and there was somebody who cared”***



*Our Holy Father Francis asks us: **“Am I ashamed of the flesh of my brother and sister”***

**“When I give alms, do I drop the coin without touching the hand (of the poor person, beggar)? And if by chance I do touch it, do I immediately withdraw it? When I give alms, do I look into the eyes of my brother, my sister? When I know a person is ill, do I go and visit that person? Do I greet him or her with affection? Don’t be ashamed of the flesh of our brother or sister, it’s our flesh! We will be judged by the way we behave towards this brother, this sister.”**



Being a Catholic – Christian – Disciple is to make the promise and hope of a renewed world a reality – sometimes – one person at a time. L Gaetano