



New Church

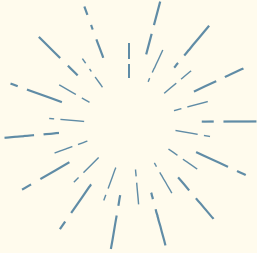
APRIL 2022

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# BISHOP'S NEWSLETTER

*General Church vision and community*

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"Divine Providence is present within the smallest details of all, and people in the stream of providence are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present."

*Arcana Coelestia 8478*

## From the Desk of the Bishop

Friends,

This Easter I have been reflecting on a portion of the story which captures how deeply the Lord loves us. It's an exchange that the Lord had with one of the people who was crucified alongside Him. The man said words that we can see as a prayer, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). We may recall the beautiful words of the Lord in response: "Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

What we see here is a personalized version of what the Lord does for all. In the big picture He came on earth to ensure that every person forevermore could turn to Him and receive that same loving message. But here it plays out on an individual level. He loves us and fights for our salvation out of pure love (see *Arcana Coelestia* 1812). I love the way it's put in another teaching. It starts by saying that "the nature of the Lord's love surpasses all human understanding" (*Arcana Coelestia* 2077). Then it talks about angels or people in heaven who, "to save a soul from hell think nothing of giving their own lives" (cf. John 15:13). Isn't that what we see the Lord doing for all humanity by suffering the agony of the cross?

Our focus, though, is on a personal level. What can it mean to us to absorb the magnitude of the Lord's love? It means that He will never not see the good that is in us, even when pricking our conscience about things that need to change; that there is nothing we can do that will stop Him from loving us; that we can be secure in the fact that we are never alone; that we can always turn to Him believing He will help us; and that we "can never be better led [than we are]" (*Spiritual Experiences* 3114; cf. *Arcana Coelestia* 6490). It means many more things that you can likely add to the list...

Easter can mean a lot of things to people. For me, this year, I am reflecting on the Lord's love by personalizing the exchange that took place on the cross. I can always approach Him with a desire to cooperate and trust that He will lovingly respond, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." I invite you to consider your own reflections on the Lord's love.

Happy Easter,  
Pete

# MESSAGES ON THE HORIZON

Please keep an eye out next week for a message from Bishop Buss in response to community feedback on his article, “Standing for Marriage in Today’s World.” This message, in video and written format, will be sent directly to your email if you receive this newsletter.

A follow-up letter from Bishop Buss will also appear in the May/June issue of New Church Life, along with letters written to the editor (received after the March/April issue went to print.)

Don't forget our [newsletter feedback form](#) if you need to reach out with questions, comments or concerns for the Bishop's or central office.

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# CONNECTING TO SCRIPTURE

He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, ‘O my Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, Your will be done.’

Matthew 26:42

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Glorification is the uniting of the Lord’s Human with the Divine of His Father. This took place by stages and was completed by the passion of the cross. [E]very person ought for his own part to approach God; and the more closely he does so, the more closely does God on His side enter into him.... The reason why the actual union was fully achieved by the passion on the cross is that it was the last temptation which the Lord underwent in the world. It is by means of temptations that conjunction takes place.

*True Christian Religion 126*

We hope this section offers you a moment to explore linked readings in the Word and the Writings. Do you have a favorite connection between passages of the Word and the Writings? Let us know [here!](#)

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# OFFICE OF EDUCATION | GCED

Looking for a project to help celebrate Easter? Try creating this [3-D Garden of Gethsemane](#) (pictured right) or your own illustrated [Easter story](#). Use the templates provided or create your own!



# OFFICE OF OUTREACH



The Grand Human Project is now **New Church Groups!** We have an entirely [new website](#) and a growing selection of groups for you to consider.

This month we spotlight Rev. Clark Echols' online group "**Choose Joy Now.**" To learn more and register, visit [the group page](#).

Follow the General Church's **NEW** Instagram - [@the.newchurch](#)

Our account features communities around the world, thought-provoking New Church perspectives, spiritually nourishing reminders for your day-to-day, and more.



## WHAT WE'RE CHEERING FOR | SOCIETY NEWS

- The Office of the Bishop is happy to announce that the long-awaited **General Church Retreat** is set for June 2024. We believe that this plan gives us the best opportunity to welcome as many members from across the world as possible, taking into account venues, event partners and travel. Please look out for further details in future installments of this newsletter.
- In late March, the Ghanaian New Church hosted African treasurers' **meetings attended by 27 people representing 8 countries:** Ghana, South Africa, Ivory Coast, Togo, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Benin, along with GC representatives from the United States. The sessions focused on building financial systems, attaining self-sufficiency, and more. Assistant Bishop Dave Lindrooth particularly noted the love for the church, New Church education, and the camaraderie among the women and men representing a wide range of countries and languages: "I left with a deep conviction that community formed through these lay people and priests working together reflected a beauty and strength that will stand as a model for the New Church as it grows on earth."
- Rev. Coleman Glenn recently began podcast "**All the Year Round,**" which brings you audio of paired readings from the Word and the Writings on a daily basis. This publication is based on H.G. Drummond's *All the Year Round: Daily Readings for the New Church*, and is available on the Podcasts app, Google Podcasts, Spotify, or the [webpage archive](#).



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