

Church column

You can't deny resurrection facts

By REV. C. ROBINSON
Our Lady
Queen of the World

One of the great pleasures in life for most of society is to sit and listen to some person who seems to have an inexhaustible fund of knowledge. Such was the case a few years ago when an interested group sat at the feet of the famous Anglican Scripture Scholar, Dr. Reginald Fuller, lecturing on the Resurrection.

His first statement was a shocker to most of us when he said: "Of course you don't find the best account of the Resurrection at the end of the Gospels".

The writer said to himself — "Where else would you find it?"

Dr. Fuller went on to explain that 1st Corinthians, Chapter XV gives the clearest description of the fact of Christ being risen from the dead. Verse 5 reads — "He was seen by Cephas (Peter) then by the

Twelve". Verse 6 continues: "After that he was seen by five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still alive, although some have fallen asleep. Verse 7 relates: "Next he was seen by James, then by all the Apostles. Verse 8 says: "Last of all he was seen by me, as one born out of the normal course".

Historians have difficulty with the Resurrection event because no one saw it take place. Scholars in that discipline require witnesses.

However, facts are not to be denied. The two great facts are the empty tomb and the numerous apparitions. These bear witness to the new form of existence which Christ enjoyed — that of the glorified saviour. Mary Magdalene did not recognize Him in the Garden — thinking it was the gardener who spoke to her.

Let people should think it was only a ghost, Christ at one time asked for something to eat, and asked Thomas to come and touch

Him. The reply of the doubter is the crowning apex of faith in the entire Scripture story — when Thomas fell on his knees and said "My Lord and my God". He was speaking for the believers of all times.

While Christ died on the Cross for our sins, He rose from the grave for our sanctification. The belief that we too some day will rise from the grave for a glorious existence in the kingdom of heaven encourages

followers of Christ to continue. Every person at times has doubts — every person at times is discouraged — we all say once in a while "what's the use?" To be otherwise would not be human.

We are not up to our ankles in clay, we are up to our knees — and our waists, at times.

When man has come to realize what a shattered human nature he has inherited, he has gone a long way in the life of holiness.

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