

## An amazing day ... an amazing promise!

Do you know what the Carbonara Effect is?

I sure didn't ... until I went up to **Chicago** in **early January** on vacation and spent some time with my cousins who introduced me to it ... it's a **TV program** about the ploys of a **handsome young Magician** by the name of **Michael Carbonara** ...  
who has a way of making things seem to appear and disappear.

It's **absolutely amazing** to see the tricks he performs before unsuspecting people ...  
and when they ask for an explanation of how he did it ...  
he simply states that it's because of **the Carbonara Effect!**

**Then he gets them to look at the camera and he admits that he's a Magician!**

**If you get a chance to check it out on TV or You-Tube** ...  
I think you'll find it to be ... **quite amazing.**

**You know, there's some other things that I find amazing ...**  
**like the number of people who don't go to Church on Sunday.** (maybe Easter but not regularly)  
**Many** say they know they should be going ...  
**but still they have a 101 reasons** for not going.

And I'm also amazed at **the number of the people who do go** to Church ...  
and can't wait to leave.

I **just can't imagine** being with someone who loves you ...  
and looking at your watch to see **how much longer you have till you can leave.**

I'm **quite amazed** ... that **after you once identify God** as the **lover of all lovers** ...  
that **you wouldn't want to be in His presence** ...  
on a very regular basis ... for as long as possible.

**No one** loves you more than God ... **His love is infinite and unconditional.**

He is madly in love with **each and every one of us.**  
And **how** do we respond to His love?  
**Many fail to make** at least a **weekly 1-hour connection** with Him.

There are **168 hours** in a week and **what** does God ask of us? **One!**  
To be with Him for **1** of those **168 hours** so that He can love us in a special way ...  
through His words of Life and through His Beloved Son, Jesus, the bread of Life.

**Why** does He want us to go to Church? It's **His House** ...  
and it's **there** that we can experience His love in a special and personal way!

**That to me ... is what's truly amazing ...**

that **God** wants so much for all of us to share ... in His own **blessed life**.

**Yes ... He** wants to share Himself with us!

And **He did this** in the most complete way when He sent His Only Begotten Son into our world to redeem us and put us back into a **right relationship** with Him ...

a **relationship where** we could now receive His Holy Spirit and be guided and supported safely through this **journey of life** and find our way to be with Him forever in **Heaven**.

**We** have an amazing God!

**He** does so many amazing things.

**Like Michael Carbonara, He too** can make things appear and disappear ...  
**but when God** does it ... it's for real ... and not slight of hand.

**In the weeks to come** we're going to hear of many Resurrection appearances.

**Today** we hear of a Resurrection disappearance!

**St. Mark** tells us that **when the women reached Jesus' tomb**, *"they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe and they were utterly amazed."*

And **the young man** says to them, *"Do not be amazed!*

*You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; He is not here."*

Well **how** could they be anything but amazed? **Jesus disappeared!**

**2 days ago**, they buried His dead body in the tomb ...

and **now** it's not there ... why? ... because it was raised from the dead!

**That** never happened before.

**Lazarus** didn't raise himself from the dead ... he was raised by **Jesus**.

**But this man Jesus ... raised Himself** from the dead!

**Wow!** ... the **amazing power** of God.

**That's what we celebrate today ... the Resurrection of Jesus ...**

**He** raised Himself from the dead to win victory over the greatest consequence of **sin**, which is **death**, and to show us that **if** we follow Him we too can live forever like Him.

**How do we** follow Him?

**We do this** by believing in Him and being baptized.

**St. Peter** emphasized this on our **First Reading** from Acts, saying that,

*"everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."*

**And Paul** emphasized this too in our **Second Reading** from **Colossians**, saying that,  
“*When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear in glory.*”

**What amazing promises!**

**If we follow Christ... we will receive forgiveness of sins and appear in glory!**

**Many of us believe these promises.**

**And many others have recently decided to take God up on His promises.**

**Over the past half a year, **18 people** took the time to follow Jesus ...**

by formally studying His teachings ...

in **the Church** that **He** started some 2000 years ago ... **the Catholic Church.**

**And then after prayer and discernment ... they freely chose last night ...**

**to come closer to Jesus by entering into the Catholic Church.**

**And they were not alone!**

**In parishes all over the world, **many men and women** entered the Church last night ...**

In Northern Alabama ... **the Diocese of Birmingham** ... some **500 people** came in.

And **across the country** ... **over 100,000** people came in.

**These people found the **Catholic Church** to be ... truly amazing!**

*“What’s so amazing about the Catholic Church?”*

Here, we have **the Mass, the greatest most powerful prayer** in the world ...

**The prayer instituted by Jesus Himself at the **Last Supper** ... so that we can give worthy worship to **the Father** and receive God’s abundant blessings.**

Here, we have access to **all Seven Sacraments** ...

that **Jesus** left us as **channels** of God’s grace ...

including the Sacrament of **Confirmation** ... the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit,

the **Sacrament of Confession**, where God forgives us for our sins

and the Sacrament of **the Holy Eucharist**, which is **Jesus Himself** ...

that we take into our bodies for **supernatural strength** and **healing.**

Having access to all these **gifts** and **graces**

is **the reason** why people outside the Catholic Church want to come in.

They thirst and hunger for **what we have.** They thirst and hunger for **Him!**

**Jesus is the reason** why year after year ... century after century ...  
people keep coming into the Catholic Church.

It **continues** to grow and grow, today numbering 1.2 billion Catholics around the world.

The **Catholic Church** is His Church. **Jesus** established it on the **rock foundation** of **St. Peter** and he sent His Holy Spirit to guide it in all truth until He comes again in glory.

**This much** we know ... **Jesus** keeps **His promises**.

**He** said he would rise again ..., and He did ...  
in a **glorified Resurrected body** ... never to die again.

And **Jesus** promises that if we follow Him ... He will take us to the Father in Heaven ...  
where we will be have **Eternal Life**.

**What a great promise** that is. **Imagine** living forever with **the Risen Jesus!**

We are **so very blessed**.

Let's rejoice in **this great day**, the **Day of the Resurrection** of our **Lord and Savior**.

It's **a day ... and a promise ...** that is **truly amazing!**