

SOMETIMES WE DISCOVER NEW LIFE IN THE MOST ORDINARY
AND EXTRAORDINARY WAYS!

In one of my more ambitious and delusional phases I decided I wanted to get a degree in art history. Not a very useful employment tool to be sure. To make it even less so I wanted to tackle early Renaissance Art-in Florence Italy. Being young it seemed simple. I took a year off and enrolled in the needed courses at UBC. One of them was two years of Italian in one year. The others were challenging but enjoyable since I am more visual than linear. The Italian was different. Parts of my brain seldom used were called into action. To be honest I rarely have studied so hard—six one hour classes -Monday to Friday with a double dose on Wednesday. Eventually the dreaded day loomed-the three hour oral and written exam.

I dreaded it and in usual fashion decided to pull an all nighter. At the time I was living in a grad residence and when I arrived I noticed a discarded rubber plant which looked dead. I took it and put it next to my study chair. A little plant food and water and it perked up. I really didn't do much more since I was so busy I ignored it during those four months. The night of my cramming was quiet since most sane people were asleep. As I sat in my chair reading and reviewing I heard a rather loud popping noise. At first, I couldn't figure it out. Then I looked. Hubert, the rubber plant, had just opened a leaf. It had been tightly curled and then in the middle of that warm April night it decided to give life another try. I sat mesmerized as the leaf slowly unfurled and opened. It was wet from the life "blood" within the plant and what was a little disconcerting was the opening leaf was pointed directly at me. I fantasized Hubert was saying thanks for what I thought was minimal care. For the next while I watched while he recovered and opened a second leaf. I continued cramming. I did pass the course only because I aced the reading since four years of high school Latin helped and, NO I didn't go to Florence. That spring I got a job offer to teach in Victoria...but that's another story.

I was reminded of that wonderful moment when I was thinking about all the things we celebrate at Easter. Certainly the Resurrection is paramount. Jesus the rejected teacher, miracle worker and God's gift to us all is ignored and killed. Our Creator's love and power restored Him to us. Resurrection to stand again and be alive; that's what we sing and speak about today. Yet if we look around us there are ongoing signs of new Nature renewing itself and in seeing small children growing into young people. When we gather for a meal we are renewing who we are with those around the table. Yes, the food is important, but those at the table are not only the present, but our collective past and hopeful future.

This past Lent we have been given the chance to renew our relationship with God. Now in this joyous Easter season we can look outward and rejoice in new life, not only in the resurrected Jesus, but to immerse ourselves in new creation surrounding us. We may want to look for our personal "rubber plant" and nourish it to life.

Easter Blessings from Rev. Joe Ponic! 2017