

The New Vision  
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### Fully Alive in the Risen Christ

At last month's Catholic Conference, keynote speaker Fr. Robert Barron stressed the importance of St. Irenaeus' theology: "The glory of God is the human being full alive." What a powerful message! But what does it mean in the context of this Easter season and our journey of faith?

Far from advocating mere personal self-fulfillment or satisfaction, this second-century bishop was speaking about the life-giving love of God (the creator) for humanity (the created). The full sentence by Irenaeus reads, "The glory of God is the living ['fully alive'] person; and the life of the person is the vision of God." We are truly alive only in relationship with God, the source of life. Jesus tells us, "Eternal life is this, to know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3). One day we hope to see God face-to-face and know the fullness of life.

Until that day comes, we can still experience authentic Christian life when we recognize the living God in creation, in one another, and especially in Jesus, the Word of God. Indeed, Jesus has come so that we "might have life and have it in abundance" (John 10:10). By being fully alive right now in our relationships with God and one another, God's glory becomes more visible in our world.

Of course, Jesus' closest companions did not initially recognize him after the resurrection, but only after hearing their name, or breaking bread with him, or seeing the marks of his crucifixion. What can we do this Easter season to deepen our faith, to open our eyes to the Word of God around us, and to know the God of life and love more intimately, so that others might see the glory of God in our lives?