

Bishop's Message for May 2009

The season of spring, and the season of Easter which we continue to celebrate, join together in a single theme – the hope of new birth. Grass greens, trees bud, flowers bloom, seeds sprout: a virtual panoply of new birth, new life. The green blade rises from the buried grain. Easter tells us that Love (in the person of Jesus) is come again like wheat arising green (see EvLW 379). As Christians we confess that death and the grave could not hold Jesus, and we proclaim with the angels: “He has risen as he said”. Jesus is the vouchsafe and guarantee of our resurrection-hope – the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The Mayan family Easter took on new a dimension this year. A grandchild arrived during the first hour of Good Friday – a girl finely formed, pleasantly featured, dark haired with the tens (fingers and toes) and the twos (eyes and ears) all accounted for. Jordyn instantly garnered the love of her parents (and grandparents). And more than that. Holding the newborn we experienced a re-birth of hope in the Creator, the creation, life itself – and especially this one little brand-new life, precious and precarious - so needy, so vulnerable - entrusted to us. In each of your life-journeys, give thanks for all the new life – in fact, “dance to the life around you!” (see *Worship and Praise* #126).

+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories