

John Schwartz, a businessman from Philadelphia sat over his morning coffee reading the paper when he saw an article about an Indian from Wyoming who was reputed to have a perfect memory; it said he could remember everything he ever did in his life. Since John had enough trouble even remembering what day of the week it was he decided to go visit this Indian to see if this was really true. He took a plane to Wyoming and travelled many miles by car to reach the reservation where he met the fabled Indian. Schwartz asked the Indian one question: "What did you have for breakfast ten years ago today?" "Eggs," the Indian said. This greatly impressed the businessman, so he travelled back to Philadelphia. Ten years later, Schwartz sat over his morning coffee reading the paper when he saw an article that the Indian was about to die. He decided to travel back to Wyoming to visit this amazing man one last time. On board the plane he watched an old John Wayne movie and became filled with the spirit of the Old West, so much so, that when he arrived at the reservation, he saluted the old Indian with the friendly greeting, "How!" And the Indian responded, "Scrambled."

Now, none of us has a memory even close to that of the old Indian, but as Christians, if you remember nothing else, remember that Christ died and rose for you. There is a power in remembering the death and resurrection of Christ. The Church knows that this memory is powerful and that is why she has always celebrated the Eucharist. The Eucharist reminds us of Christ's death and resurrection.

Perhaps you know the power of remembering from your own experience. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, wondering if you'll ever escape the anxiety of your troubles, you can call to mind a story of death and resurrection from your own history, a time when you felt scared, lonely, but you survived and became stronger because you survived. The memory of your own salvation history empowers you with hope and courage to face present and future difficulties.

If someone ever asks you what you had for breakfast ten years ago today, tell them "I haven't the slightest idea, but as a Christian I do remember that death is always followed by resurrection." And that, my friends, is the good news of Easter.

Easter 86

Nativity

(Tom's, edited by Paul)