

Retreat – Oblate School of Theology  
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## ***Transformation Within the Paschal Mystery - Jesus' Death as "An Example That We Should Follow"***

### **1. Some key distinctions – between ...**

- *Biological life* – and *Eschatological life*
- *Terminal death* – and *Paschal death*
- *"Resuscitation"* (Lazarus) - and *"resurrection"* (Jesus)
- *"Life"* – and *"Spirit"*

### **2. The paradigm of the Paschal Mystery: 5 distinct moments**

- 1) **Passion-death** ... *"The loss of life"*
- 2) **Resurrection** .... *"The reception of new life:"*
- 3) **"Forty Days"** .... *"A time for grief and adjustment"*
- 4) **Ascension** .... *"The refusal to cling/ letting the old ascend"*
- 5) **Pentecost** .... *"Receiving a new spirit for a new life one is already living"*

### **3. Application**

- The death in "aging, losing our health, and being ever more marginalized by our culture"
- The death of our "dreams"
- The death of our "wholeness"
- The death our "innocence"
- The death of our images of Christ, the church, and of faith

### **4. A note on Grieving**

- *"In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we learn that in this life there is no finished symphony."* (Karl Rahner)
- Its proper place
- Its necessary place
- Its own inner demands regarding length
- How it might be helped through "ritual"
- Its demand that it be honored – making place for sadness in our lives.

### **5. The life-long paschal cycle**

- *Name your deaths*
- *Claim your births*
- *Do your mourning*
- *Let the old ascend/refuse to cling*
- *Receive the spirit for the life you are actually living*