That we may walk in newness of life. For many years this has been my intention throughout the season of Lent and through the solemn remembrance of Passion-Death-Resurrection during Holy Week and Easter. That we may walk in newness of life. It is a part of my Catholic heritage for which I remain very grateful.

With the temperatures warming and spring growth beginning to appear, it is not hard to recognize the power of Resurrection, newness of life, alive and moving again within the natural world. In fact, the observance of Easter is purposely placed in relation to the spring equinox, making use of this natural catechism to instruct us more fully in the mysteries we celebrate. The natural world responds … well, “naturally” … to the awakened energies of spring renewal. But what about the life of the human community? How will we find renewal of life in the midst of our addictions to anger and violence, to self-gratification and greed, to winning at all costs and devaluing perspectives not in line with our own?

I catch myself in the midst of this false dichotomy: human life as separate from natural life … a parallel universe. Not so! Pope Francis’ encyclical, *Laudato Si’*, makes a clear case for the interpenetration of these two arenas: “Nature cannot be regarded as something separate from ourselves or as a mere setting in which we live. We are part of nature, included in it and thus in constant interaction with it.”(139) At a very fundamental level, we are one.

How then to walk in newness of life? For certainly there are serious issues to be resolved, and each day calls us into participation in arenas ranging from the very personal to the very global, and all that is between.

The words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33, when rendered from the Aramaic language in which Jesus spoke, can be understood this way: “Line up your starting place with that of the universe …”* I am reminded of this as I begin my morning meditation with a practice learned from Islamic (Sufi) friends … cupping hands behind my ears as I breathe or chant the originating word of the prayer of Jesus: “Abwoon … , Abwoon …” The vibration, if I allow it, centers me and draws me forth. Align your starting point with that of the universe. O Birther of the Cosmos. Abwoon.
I hold a deep sense that in doing so I am uniting my intention with that of the Risen Christ, aligning my energy with the ongoing power of Divine creation. I know that I am not alone in this quest; many within the human community are choosing to consciously line up their lives with the integral ecology called for in *Laudato Si’*. Our belief in Resurrection, then, sustains us on this journey. May springtime blossom forth from deep within: keeping healthy relationships strong, expressing repentance and healing where there is need, learning better behaviors for the sake of life, greening all aspects of our Earth community. Happy Easter!

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*Neil Douglas-Klotz, *Blessings of the Cosmos*, p. 13*