

ISSUE

29

APRIL

2016

MONTHLY NEWS  
from the ADVISORY  
COUNCIL'S CATHOLIC  
IDENTITY COMMITTEE

# Family Connection



# alleluia!

*Christ has Risen!*

## Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for April

**Universal:** That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

**Evangelization:** That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.



Email [BethanyLoeffler@yahoo.com](mailto:BethanyLoeffler@yahoo.com) with questions or ideas for our next newsletter!



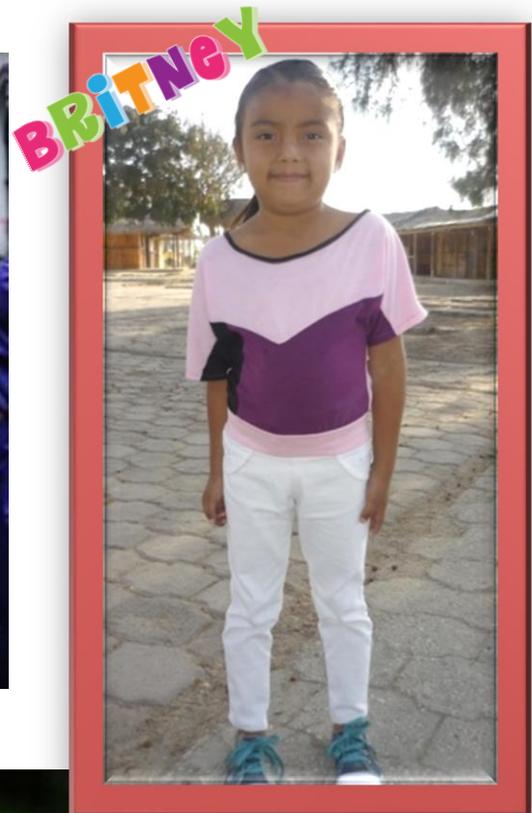
Please remember to keep the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders from our parish in your prayers as they are preparing for first Holy Communion!

# Easter in Ecuador

Ecuador has an **Easter Week**. Each city has its own traditional ways of celebrating this festive period, but its general meaning and celebratory purposes remain the same. Easter Week is a time where the crucifixion of Christ is remembered and His rising commemorated.

On **Good Friday**, festivities start with a procession that is colorful and most spectacular, with depictions of these last horrendous days of Christ on earth. Some devotees carry massive crosses throughout the sometimes difficult route, while others illustrate the whipping penitents, as done by the Romans. Everyone in the parades is decked out in **purple tunics with cone-shaped hoods**. Only the churches and cathedrals are open on Good Friday, with members of the church sometimes having to stand in long queues to get a chance at joining one of the ceremonies that are performed throughout the day.





Ecuador also has a traditional soup that is served on Good Friday called franesca, which is prepared from twelve different grains, representing the twelve disciples, and Christ who is symbolized through the serving of fish. It may contain squash, salt cod, slices of hard boiled eggs, chunks of bananas, fried bread, cheese, and even peanuts! This hearty meal is a satisfying treat to all those devotees that fasted all week.



On the Saturday of the event, the streets come alive with people and parades, joyful children and fascinated visitors. Music, dance, and celebration fill the air, with families spending time together and enjoying the break from daily life. In Ecuador it is called Saturday of Glory and it is a national holiday. Easter Sunday is another opportunity for Ecuadorians to attend church services, reflect on their religious beliefs and the sacrifice made by Christ.

<http://www.ecuador.com/blog/easter-week-celebrations-in-ecuador>

<http://www.detourdestinations.com/blog/easter-in-ecuador-semana-santa>

Email [BethanyLoeffler@yahoo.com](mailto:BethanyLoeffler@yahoo.com) with questions or ideas

