

## *MM Email Blue Sheet — Hippity Hopping to Easter 5*

### **WE HAVE A POPE—IT'S A TRADITION**

#### *Morgan's Moment...*

She wheeled into Starbucks...  
parked herself and walker  
and sat down with her cup alone.  
We wondered whether she came  
from nearby or by car...  
and how old she might be.  
I intruded into her privacy zone  
apologetically inquiring  
about our wondering.  
She walked a good half mile  
using a walker for balance  
for health and exercise.  
We said we did the same daily...  
but to a another coffee place  
which was out of her range.  
When she told of her neighborhood  
I named a lady she might know  
which of course she did.  
Then she asked my age...  
after which she trumped me  
by claiming my years plus four.  
She begged to leave...  
as I asked her birth date...  
this month 3 days before Easter.  
She wheel off to the street...  
another pilgrim hippity hopping  
on the bunny trail toward Easter.  
— Art Morgan

### **BOOK CORNER**

#### **EVOLUTION OF THE WORD**

**The New Testament in the Order the Books were Written**, by Marcus Borg  
I read the whole New Testament,  
following the order he suggests. Anyone  
who thinks can see how different beliefs  
about Jesus and his titles began to  
accumulate as years passed after his  
death.

**HALLUCINATIONS**, Oliver Sacks is a  
neurologist whose studies might explain  
some Biblical “vision” stories. Good.

**THE WORLD IN 2050** by Laurence  
Smith. His view toward 2050 is  
sobering. An important book.

**My own appeal is pending in Yakima** and we're still a few  
weeks to go until we deal with the Jesus situation in Jerusalem.  
What else is going on down the bunny trail?

**Let's look at Rome** where the faithful are gathered in the rain  
looking up at that silly smokestack on top of the Vatican in St  
Peter's square. It finally gave what they were waiting for — holy  
smoke!

**What's going on**, with all that pomp and circumstance?  
There's only one comprehensive word—*tradition*. Pope Francis  
succeeds Pope Benedict who succeeded Pope Paul and Pope John  
and down the line to Pope Peter who was supposedly Christ's  
successor on earth.

There is barely anything in Rome that sounds like the Jesus  
who was with his friends in Galilee. What we see is accumulated  
tradition.

A lot if Italians will likely agree. They could abide a Polish  
Pope or even a German Pope, but an Argentinian Pope? God's  
ways are strange and the Cardinals have voted. We have a new  
Pope. The faith goes on.

**It's a good time to think about tradition.** It is not new that  
the Catholic Church puts the Bible and Tradition side by side.  
They each have authority.

No one should be surprised. Think about it. There was no  
Bible until some bands of Christians began bickering about what  
was the true Jesus story and people began writing some things  
down, beginning with Paul. The Gospels that most Christians  
consider the inspired word of God were really late compilations of  
tradition. Memories evolved into repeated stories and reports that  
evolved into faith about Jesus that evolved into “history”.

As years have passed layering on of beliefs has continued.  
There are varieties of creeds, denominations and branches of  
Christianity which have baptized their own traditions. Each  
determines which is truth and which is heresy.

**I simplify. Some of what I write may be more or less true.**  
Maybe some church council will gather my words for burning  
(hopefully not me too). Or maybe, like the letters of Paul, someone  
will bind some of my better blue pages together and claim, “This  
is the word of the Lord!”

If you pray, send off a shot for the new Pope. He's got a mess  
on his hands; some criminal cases, a declining membership, not  
enough priests eager to become celibate, a bunch of angry nuns  
and other women, and probably some jealous Cardinals.

And he's got all of those traditions and rituals to go through for  
Easter. He's the new bunny hippity hopping with us on the trail  
toward Easter. Keep on hopping. There's still a ways to go.

— Art Morgan, March 13, 2013