

## More Than Bunnies and Eggs

What do you remember most about Easter from your childhood?

Many of us recall a mother who took us shopping during those weeks prior to Easter for new miniature suits (that could never be comfortable for little boys) and petite Sunday Spring dresses that were not complete until paired with the perfect Easter hat.

We recall boiling eggs, then dipping or brushing them in an assortment of dye colors. And, who can forget the look and feel of the strands and clumps of green plastic grass that formed a bed at the bottom of our Easter baskets? Or the beauty and tastes of: those chocolate rabbits whose ears were always the first to go; the cream-filled chocolate eggs; the peanut butter eggs; and the rainbow colored assortment of jelly beans.

We remember running about the back yard on a Sunday afternoon egg hunt with baskets in hand, finding those colored prizes in the open grass, beneath bushes, and behind patio furniture. These sensory memories of secular traditions often compose our strongest childhood recollections of a holiday.

What will our children recall later in life? Although a fabled rabbit, and the chocolate eggs that accompany it, may be harmless cultural diversions for our little ones—wouldn't it be wonderful if we could create more meaningful lasting memories of spiritually-oriented Lenten and Easter observances with our physical and spiritual families.

*“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.”* Matthew 19:14 (NRSV)