

# GET UP!

Father Spencer

Mother's Day/Good Shepherd Sunday/Ordinary Time 2025

5/10/2025, 5 pm, Vespers & 5/11/2025, Sunday



**Coralía & Maruxa Fadiño Ricart**

Two sisters in Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
wearing bright clothes & showing good will  
during the Franco dictatorship

*Tabitha, get up! — Acts 9:40*

**Get up!** says Peter to Tabitha. **Get up!** says Jesus to save lives. **Get up!** says this childless seamstress. **Get up!** say the widows gathered around Tabitha like a twelve-step group. **Get up!** says the Bible mothering us all. **Get up!** says Paul in Damascus last week. **Get up!** I say to you just returned from Spain and Austria with jet lag. Levantanse! Aufstehen! **Get up!** I say with a stole with children on it given to me by my mother. **Get up!** said all of you from your beds this morning. **Get up!** I say to you. Hear God's voice and act like a cuckoo clock. On Mother's

Day and Good Shepherd Sunday, put on a uniform of Christ: **Get up, get up, get up.**

Tabitha, a seamstress of good will, makes clothes for the poor. In her life, she heard God's voice, and she acted upon it. Her ministry practical: she clothes people. She is Rev. Edgar Helms, the Methodist minister who founded the Good Will in 1902. She is Julie Andrews making clothes from curtains. Tabitha knows messages come through our clothes. Clothes improve our appearance. Edith Head said, "You can have anything in life if you dress for it." Priests understand this. Priests one of the last professions with a uniform. My uniform a flag of good will to spread goodwill as if I were a clerk in a Good Will store. My clothes help me to **get up, get up, get up, get up...**

Tabitha gets up. Each one of us can get up. Each one of us has the chance to **get up**. Each one of us can hear God's voice and act on the voice. After the confession of sin: **Get up!** After the Eucharist: **Get up!** After coffee hour: **Get up!** Takes guts to get dressed and come through this door. Everyone in this church has heard God's voice and acted and the voice said to themselves: **Get Up!**

The word ministry in Latin means small things. Small things make beautiful ministries. Your ministry can be walking to

church. Your ministry can be welcoming the stranger in this church. Your ministry can be taking pride in the way you dress. Your ministry can be bespoke, made to measure, couture, second-hand, handmade. Your ministry can be offering a practical gift of clothing. Whatever your ministry, no matter how small, you can resurrect, you can **giddy up and go-go-go.**

In Santiago de Compostela, there is a life-sized brightly colored polychrome statue in the Almeda Park. The statue of two women, Coralia and Maruxa, featured on your bulletin, **got up.** These two women came from a family that was part of the resistance to Generalissimo Franco, his dictatorship lasted from 1936 until 1974. The women were talented seamstresses. Franco's dictatorship was misogynist and discouraged any expression of femininity: women were told to dress in dark colors and be submissive. Women who disobeyed Franco were sent to prison.

Coralía and Maruxa's family were persecuted, their brother was killed, both women were raped during the civil war and suffered from mental challenges throughout their lives. Neither sister married nor had children — *Ah!* —but they had one another. Their sewing business was boycotted, and they depended on charity to survive. Then one day the two women said to each other: **Get up!**

The two women resurrected like Tabitha. The two women **got up**. The two women heard a God voice and acted. What strength comes to the childless like Jesus and Maria Von Trapp. Through the dictatorship, from 1955 until 1975, these two women walked around Santiago every day at 2 in the afternoon, dressed in bright colors with heavy make-up and flirted with the young male students on their walks as if they were going to church. Their ministry of good will, clothed in bright colors, became famous throughout Spain. Deemed eccentric old women, the Franco regime ignored them. Yet their ministry inspired a nation. Coralia and Maruxa said to all of Spain: **Get up!**

Their small ministry became an act of resistance that brought hope to the world. What small ministry can be yours to offer hope to this world? When I was ordained to the diaconate in 2010, my mother came. Not a religious woman, my mother presented me with a stole filled with the faces of children. Like Tabitha, my mother wanted to give me a practical gift of clothing I could use. She gave me a stole that flagged community. She clothed me in Christ with bright colors like the childless mothers of Santiago. My mother speaks to me for the rest of my priestly life, saying through a small piece of clothing: **Get up! Get up! Get up! Get up!**

Tabitha listened and **got up**. Jesus today says: listen and **get up**. Listen and resurrect. Last Sunday, I listened and got up and went to Christ Church in Vienna, Austria, the Anglican English-speaking Church in Vienna on Jauresgasse in the third district of Landstrasse. The church full of openness, diversity, kindness and children. Nigerian women in bright colored dresses and Austrians in Loden singing like the Von Trapps.

The church packed. Vienna **got up**. When a church **gets up!** watch out. Watch out. Tabitha was in the bones of that church in Vienna: in 1938, their childless priest baptized 1800 Jewish children in a week for the Kindertransport. Lives saved. When a church says: **Get up!** the church lives. The church becomes a Good Will store of resurrections. St. Paul's, are we **getting up**? Are you ready to **get up**, you here for the first time? Are you ready to turn this church into the Good Will and suit up and show up in Christ?

St. Paul's, I am happy to be home in my uniform. Wherever I go you are in my heart. Paul for whom this church is named tells us: "For all of you who were baptized in Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ." Let us be a fashion statement of good will. May we be cuckoo clocks of God's will, even if we're eccentric childless mothers, let us **get up** as childless Jesus got up..... For, sisters and

brothers, it is a known fact that an act of good will, no matter how small the act may seem, can save a life. **So get up, get up, get up, get up, St. Paul's! AMEN.**

Beilage zum Artikel vom 20. Mai 2025 *Spencer Reece: Warum wirken seine Reden so lange?* in der Kolumne von [www.redemanufaktur.com](http://www.redemanufaktur.com)

