

June 2022

Community Newsletter

Thrive For Life

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GOSPEL

John 20:19-23

OTHER READINGS

Acts 2:1-11 and 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

MONTHLY EXAMEN

We invite you to prayerfully reflect:

Presence

Become aware that God's presence is active at each moment of your life, looking at you with love, desirous of speaking directly to your heart. How do you feel at this moment?

Ask

Ask God for the grace to see the ways God is working in your life.

Gratitude

Be grateful. Thank God for the gifts, both big and small of the day.
What are you most grateful for today?

Review

Trust that God is with you at each moment of day, during the good and challenging moments. God never abandons you.

What were the good moments of today?
What were the greatest challenges of today?

Respond

You are not stuck. Tomorrow is a new day. Ask God to give you the grace to be the loving and generous person you were created to be.
What can you do tomorrow to be more generous and loving?

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross.



GOD IS EXCITED TO TALK TO YOU!

This month, we hear one of the most famous stories in the New Testament, when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles like tongues of fire, a scene that seems to be a favorite for many artists. After the Holy Spirit had filled them, the Apostles went out and spoke about Jesus and His message – and everyone they spoke to heard them speaking in the language that they understood! How inviting this must have seemed, that these incredible deeds were being spoken of in a familiar language.

When we think of God, it can seem like God would only speak to us in fancy words or through people who we think are holier than we are. But God wants to speak to each and every one of us! To do this, God uses a language that we understand – we just need to be willing to try and listen. Do you like to read? Perhaps God is speaking to you through the words that you read! Do you like to build things? Maybe God is speaking to you through the ways that things join together to form something new! No matter how God is speaking to you, it is important to recognize that this conversation is meant to draw us closer to God. Just like when we're talking with those we care for, the more time we spend talking and listening to God the easier it gets! When we can recognize God's voice it's even easier for us to act for our good and God's greater glory.

L. Lapean, *Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall, Fordham University*



GOD KNOWS AND FEELS YOUR PAIN

God loves you! Three small words, but they can change the world if we live out of them. Since we can't see "love," we are given acts of love that we can see. These are very real ways that God's love breaks into each of our lives!

Jesus was not a crazy thought or someone that lived in an ivory tower – He had a family, friends, a favorite food! I don't know about you, but I find it a lot easier to want to know someone who has experienced life like I have, complete with all the bumps and bruises! Jesus knows the pain of the death of one friend, the betrayal of another, and being abandoned by virtually everyone else. Since He experienced such deep pain, when I go to Him with my own problems and difficulties, I know that He understands what they are.

And He experienced this pain out of the deep love that He has for every one of us, no matter who we are or what we may have done! How incredible is it that we have a God who loves us so much that He was willing to experience the pains and hardships of human life! Maybe the next time that we feel a pain so deep that we think it can never go away we will remember this and turn in prayer to that God who loves us so deeply that He willingly felt the same pains that we do.

L. Lapean, *Jesuit Scholastic at Ciszek Hall, Fordham University*

MEDITATION FROM RIKERS

This is in extract from a reflection that T. Sardet - a seminarian - wrote about his weekly visits to Rikers Island, where he joined Fr. Zach in accompanying our brothers and sisters behind walls.

One day, one of the inmates came to me, seeing all the rosaries I was giving, and told me: "You know? Those rosaries are useless." I did not have much to say, I did not have any argument in mind. It was not even what he was looking for. So, I smiled and asked him about his life, his family. It was impressive how he opened his heart completely. I think he understood more than anyone else why I was there, that is simply a place to dwell in, even for a few minutes. I proposed him to pray. At my surprise, he immediately answered yes. I have been amazed by his heart because he reminded me that our faith cannot be reduced to a social service, that it cannot be reduced to give Bibles and rosaries; it is about an encounter with Christ, it is a friendship. And we prayed together. I remember how peaceful and grateful his gaze was at that moment.

In a sense, our apostolate is not about having any relational skills, but about an objective presence used as an instrument, through which mysteriously heavens come down and dwell there for some time. It has nothing to do with our virtue, which makes us feel even more disproportionate in front of the task. But it is real. Despite his poor humanity, the priest is a host called to be eaten. It provokes love, hate, anger, thirst, which makes his mysterious mission even more obvious.

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