

# PRAY, FAST AND STRUGGLE FOR A MORE PERFECT UNION WITH CHRIST AS A FAMILY

## *SUGGESTED PRAYERS, READINGS AND THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK*

### **A PSALM FOR THE MORNING** (*PSALM 116, DOUAY RHEIMS*)

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his mercy is confirmed upon us: and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever.

### **A GOSPEL FOR THE MORNING** (*LUKE 24:1-12, RSV-CE*)

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Mag'dalene and Jo-an'na and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

### **A PSALM FOR THE EVENING** (*PSALM 115; DOUAY RHEIMS*)

I have believed, therefore have I spoken; but I have been humbled exceedingly. I said in my excess: Every man is a liar. What shall I render to the Lord, for all the things he hath rendered unto me? I will take the chalice of salvation; and I will call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord before all his people: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. O Lord, for I am thy servant: I am thy servant, and the son of thy handmaid. Thou hast broken my bonds: I will sacrifice to thee the sacrifice of praise, and I will call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the sight of all his people: In the courts of the house of the Lord, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem.

### **A GOSPEL FOR THE EVENING** (*JOHN 21:1-14 FROM RSV-CE*)

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tibe'ri-as; and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathan'a-el of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zeb'edee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat; but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any fish?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So, they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So, Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

## **A PRAYER TO ST. THOMAS AQUINAS**

O Saint Thomas, Doctor of the Church Militant, flourishing by virginal purity, bestow on us the desired joys of the Church Triumphant.

## **A MARIAN PRAYER**

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,  
Has risen as He said, alleluia.  
Pray to God for us, alleluia.

## **FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**643** Christ's Resurrection cannot be interpreted as something outside the physical order, and it is impossible not to acknowledge it as an historical fact. It is clear from the facts that the disciples' faith was drastically put to the test by their master's Passion and death on the cross, which he had foretold. The shock provoked by the Passion was so great that at least some of the disciples did not at once believe in the news of the Resurrection. Far from showing us a community seized by a mystical exaltation, the Gospels present us with disciples demoralized ("looking sad") and frightened. For they had not believed the holy women returning from the tomb and had regarded their words as an "idle tale". When Jesus reveals himself to the Eleven on Easter evening, "he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen."

**644** Even when faced with the reality of the risen Jesus the disciples are still doubtful, so impossible did the thing seem: they thought they were seeing a ghost. "In their joy they were still disbelieving and still wondering." Thomas will also experience the test of doubt and St. Matthew relates that during the risen Lord's last appearance in Galilee "some doubted." Therefore the hypothesis that the Resurrection was produced by the apostles' faith (or credulity) will not hold up. On the contrary their faith in the Resurrection was born, under the action of divine grace, from their direct experience of the reality of the risen Jesus.

## **FROM THE SAINTS**

A soul not yet liberated from worldly concerns cannot truly love God nor despise the devil as is fitting, because he wears life's worries like a burdensome shroud.

-St. *Diadochus of Photike*

Would you like to know who it is that is poor in spirit? He who is given the riches of the soul in exchange for material wealth, who is poor for the sake of the spirit. He has shaken off the earthly riches like a burden so that he may be lightly lifted into the air and be borne upwards

-St. *Gregory of Nyssa*

## **FAST, ABSTAIN AND/OR SACRIFICE THIS WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY**

For children and youth of the parish.

## **MEMORIZE THE CARDINAL VIRTUES**

Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, Temperance

### **Opportunities for Christian Formation this Week at the Parish**

**Monday, April 20 at 9:30AM and 7:00PM in Aquinas Hall – Bible Study**

**Tuesday, April 21 at 6:30PM in Aquinas Hall – Adult Catechism/OCIA**

**Wednesday, April 22 at 6:30PM in Aquinas Hall – Reflection on *Dorotheos of Gaza: Discourses and Sayings*;**

**Discussion Topics:** "On Cutting off the Passionate Desires Before They Become Rooted Habits of Mind" and "On the Fear of Punishment to Come and the Need for Never Neglecting One's Salvation"

