

# OF PRAYER AND THE RESURRECTION

The Resurrection of Jesus is rarely presented as anything more than one great apologetic argument proving the Divinity of Christ. Certainly it is this! But if we do not penetrate deeper within the mystery of our Lord's Resurrection, past the mere apologetic aspect, it will fail to stir our souls and it will not be for us what the Church intends it to be. It is more than merely a historical fact on which to build an argument. Yes, our hope is not founded on a dead man, but on One Who lives. But He lives in order to give us life. "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." If we fail to grow in this life which He came to give us, we have failed as Catholics. Unfortunately, some tend to reduce everything to apologetics. They read, not to find nourishment for their spiritual life, but to hunt for quotes to prove something to someone. While they go searching for "holy" information, their faith becomes abstract and their spiritual life grows cold and lifeless. They know how to argue but not how to pray. They know how to quote but not how to live. They know things about Christ but they do not know Him. And thus they so often know how to hate but not how to love. What is the remedy? Forget about collecting facts and figures and storing up information but rather earnestly seek Christ Himself by prayer, spiritual reading and self-denial or else apologetics will remain an exercise in futility as far as our own sanctification and eternal salvation is concerned. The spiritual life is little known because it is so little taught and it is so little taught because it is so seldom sought. Earnestly desire to find Christ as Mary Magdalene did when she came to the sepulcher that first Easter morning. Her love was so great that no obstacle was too big to get in her way. But the only way to find Jesus is to look for Him. Jesus is never very far from hearts who sincerely desire Him.

Now, the Resurrection has within it a deep life-giving power. The events of our Savior's life are much more than mere lifeless facts of history presented for our consideration. Christ's life must be for us not solely an external event which we contemplate, but an inner experience which we undergo. If we are to be faithful to our vocation as Christians and to God's design for our sanctification, our personal life must mystically reproduce in some measure, the life of Christ.

1. **CATECHISM CLASS:** NO Catechism class this morning.
2. There will be NO 5:00 Sunday Vespers this afternoon.
3. Tomorrow, April 9, 2007, there will be Solemn Vespers and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 5:00 PM in the Abbey Church.
4. **N.B.:** Let us remember to make our Easter Duty this year: "All the faithful who have reached the age of their reason must sincerely confess their sins at least once a year. This confession need not be made during the Easter time, but because of the prescribed Easter Communion it is practical to make it at this time... All the faithful who have attained the use of their reason must receive Holy Communion at least once during the Easter season... The Easter season within which one must receive Holy Communion usually extends in the United States, from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday." (*Moral Theology*, Fr. Heribert Jone, 1961)
5. Please pray for all the Sick and Shut-ins of our Chapels. **LET US ALSO PRAY FOR EVERYONE.** Let us pray for ALL the priests and religious men and women of the world. **NO MAN, WOMAN, OR CHILD SHOULD BE LEFT OUT OF OUR PRAYER.** God made all men to be with Him in heaven for all eternity, and this includes every human being on earth, regardless of station or condition or place. While Our Blessed Lord was hanging on the Cross He did not look around and pick and choose those for whom He was dying. He did not exclude a single member of the Human Race – even His enemies – from the wounded Love that came forth from Him during those momentous moments. Weak human nature and erroneous persuasions will prevent some from achieving the purpose intended for them by God, but that matter remains entirely between all such and God. We must make **no** judgments concerning such matters. Our only duty is to pray for souls.
6. **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:** (Father Abbot Leonard's schedule only)
  - SUNDAY: Welfare of our monastic family of monks, nuns, and oblates
  - MONDAY: Welfare of Christ the King Abbey
  - TUESDAY: Welfare of Saint Joseph's Monastery
  - WEDNESDAY: For the people of our Chapels
  - THURSDAY: For all our friends, benefactors, and spiritual family worldwide
  - FRIDAY: For the Poor Souls in Purgatory
  - SATURDAY: Special intention Paul Roy Family

## TO OUR CHERISHED VISITORS

We are always honored by and thankful for the presence of all our visitors, and our prayers for you and for your loved ones are as fervent as is possible for us. We humbly ask, however, that you strive to understand that the gift of Holy Communion ~ the gift of the Body of Christ ~ is reserved only for the members of our Catholic Religion and Faith. Nevertheless, we do love you, and our hearts go out to meet your hearts. Your presence here honors us profoundly. May the best of God's blessings be always upon you. Please pray for us.