

Monday Easter Octave  
MT 28:8-15

In my homily on Wednesday of Holy Week, I spoke about what scripture scholars call "M material:" material found only in Matthew; it's not found in Mark and it's not found in Luke. There was M material in that gospel and homily, all pertaining to Judas. For example, In Matthew, Judas' motive was money. "What will you give me if I hand him over to you?" The point of the homily was Judas could have been one of the greatest saints of the Church had he only asked for forgiveness. He would be at top of the Litany of the Saints, St. Judas the Penitent. Instead, he despaired and hung himself.

This morning's gospel also contains M material, namely the bribing of the soldiers. And notice, money was part of the equation, giving the soldiers a large bribe to cover up the Resurrection, to tell anyone who asks that the Disciples came and stole His Body. And they pocketed the money.

A second point I'd like to make is in reference to the last line of the Gospel, "This is the story that circulates

among the Jews to this very day.” Keep in mind that the Gospel of Matthew was written in 85 AD. So Matthew is telling his audience that this coverup has circulated for over 50 years after the Resurrection.

Cover ups there were at the time of Jesus. Cover ups there will always be. We’re living the consequences of a coverup that has affected, or should I say, infected the entire world.

But we will see that much like Our Risen Lord, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, that Truth will prevail. Truth always prevails. Truth always sets one free. The truth of Jesus Christ has prevailed for over 2000 years. The cover up in today’s gospel, that the Disciples, stole the body, who knows, who cares.

One thing we do know. As the death toll rings loud and long during this apex of the virus, the Risen Jesus conquers their deaths, every time!