

4 Easter Wednesday  
JN 12:44-50

Over a month ago, in one of my daily pandemic homilies, I explained the Gospel of John is divided into two books, the Book of Signs, from Chapters 1-12 and the Book of Glory from Chapters 13 – 21. The purpose of the Book of Signs is to record the signs of Jesus, mostly miracles, that prove that He is Son of God. Today's gospel is the last eight verses of the Book of Signs and some biblical publications like mine, the New American Bible, subtitle this section of eight verses "Recapitulation." It's an eight verse recap of the entire Book of Signs, pointing out in summary fashion what's important:

- ✓ Put faith in Me
- ✓ But not just me, put faith in my Father who sent Me
- ✓ When you see Me, You see my Father
- ✓ I am the Light; without me there is darkness
- ✓ I did not come to condemn the world, but to save it
- ✓ I speak as my Father has instructed Me to speak.

Pearls of wisdom emphasized by the evangelist John as he finishes the first part of his gospel, the Book of Signs, before turning the page to begin the Book of Glory.

As all four gospel writers take the words and deeds of Jesus and string them together with a theology that caters to what their audiences need to hear, a priest does the same thing in his homilies. He takes the gospel message and applies it to what his congregation needs to hear. So far so good. Every message I've preached since the pandemic began I've been able to cater to what we are facing as a pandemic. So here's my recapitulation of what's important:

- ✓ St. Joseph, patron saint of trust, pray for us
- ✓ My daily devotional being spot on, more than once
- ✓ it's easy to talk about faith when your sampling is Peter, Paul and Mary
- ✓ If the gates of hell will not prevail, neither will this pandemic
- ✓ John's Jesus is always in complete control.

- ✓ Our Blessed Lord's greatest miracle is a personal affair, with His deep penetrating presence, with His deep penetrating gaze
- ✓ Jesus gets it. He's got it, and He has it, all figured out.
- ✓ Find your favorite place to pray. And be silent there
- ✓ Let us pray for and applaud all those who are thinking outside the box
- ✓ I wonder how many could forgive those who are responsible for this pandemic.
- ✓ during this apex of the virus, the Risen Jesus conquers their deaths, every time!
- ✓ Are you walking the wrong way? Are you taking your chances at social distancing? Are you getting a little punchie to live with in your home isolation?
- ✓ So let's take advantage of the silence of this pandemic to thank Our Blessed Lord for all that He has given us that we took o so much for granted.
- ✓ Jesus I trust in you.
- ✓ Jesus knows exactly where the missing links of this pandemic are found, and so do we. The missing links are found in Him.

- ✓ In the arithmetic of God, there is always a surplus
- ✓ How can Governor Cuomo be so sure the numbers are down not because of God, because of faith?
- ✓ “Father, when we are able to come back and receive Holy Communion, there won’t be a dry eye in the line.”
- ✓ Following the voice of the Good Shepherd, let’s allow him to tilt our heads this way and that, until we are free from the pandemic.

That’s the recapitulation of this pandemic. And there’s more to come.