



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States  
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

## *O happy sin that brought us a Redeemer*

### *To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!*

On behalf of His Excellency Robert J. Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, and Very Rev. Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

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Jesus was dead. The soldiers, who were experts in crucifixions, certified that Jesus was dead. The Jewish authorities knew that Jesus would not rise again, yet they asked Pilate to order the soldiers to watch His corpse.

Perhaps, it was because the Jewish authorities remembered that Jesus called His Body a temple and that if they would destroy it, He would rebuild it in three days. They also recalled Jesus comparing Himself to Jonah. He said that Jonah was in a fish's stomach for three days, so He would be in belly of the earth for three days and then would rise again. They knew that Jesus was dead. But they worried about what He said when He was alive.

At dawn on Sunday, several women were seen approaching the tomb. They brought spices with them to apply them to Jesus' dead body. It never occurred to them that resurrection was a possibility.

When they rolled the rock in front of Jesus' tomb, not only Jesus was buried, but also were their hopes.

As they approached the tomb, they found the stone rolled back. But they did not immediately jump to the conclusion that His body had risen. Their conclusion was that someone had removed the body.

Instead of seeing a body, they saw an angel, who said to them, "Do not be dismayed, you have come to look for the body of Jesus, who was crucified. He has risen. He is not here. Go, tell the rest of the disciples that He is going to meet them in Galilee. There you shall see Him as He had promised you" (Mark 16: 6 – 7).

To an angel, the resurrection is not a mystery. But death is. For us, death is not a mystery. Resurrection is.

The angel's words were the first Gospel preached after the resurrection. The words went back to Jesus' passion, for the angel spoke of Him, "As Jesus of Nazareth Who was crucified." These words conveyed Jesus' humanity – the humility of His birthplace in Bethlehem, and the ignominy of His death on the cross.

Christ's humanity - Christ's lowliness of His birth in the manger, the ignominy of His death on the cross, the shame of the manner He died – were made

the backdrop of His rising from the dead.

Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem – were all made the identifying marks of Christ's resurrection. The angel's words, "Here is the place where they laid Him", confirmed the reality of Christ's death and the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies.

Tombstones bear the inscriptions. "Here lies". Then follows the name of the dead, perhaps, along with some praise of the dead person. In contrast, the angel expressed a different epitaph, "He is not here".

The angel showed the women the place where Christ's body was laid, as evidence of Christ's resurrection. What a paradox – Christ's birth was first announced to a Virgin woman and His resurrection was first announced to a fallen one.

Those who saw the empty tomb were told to tell Peter about it. Peter had denied Christ three times. Peter's denials did not kill God's love. It is a paradox – the greater the repentance from sin, the greater is the belief.

Jesus came for the lost sheep. Jesus came for sinners - for harlots, for denying Peters, for the persecuting Pauls. Through these people, God revealed His love for us. An angel sent a former harlot to a denying Peter to tell him that Christ has risen!

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**Happy Easter!**

## **Know and Do Your Own Assignment**

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

There are different kinds of works, but in all of them and everyone of it is the same God at work (1 Cor.12: 4 - 6).

Be you. Do not try to be another person. You could imitate them, you could admire them, you could learn from them. But you could not be them.

Do not compare yourself with others. Each one of us has the responsibility for doing the creative best we can for our own life.

Jesus was insistent on this. After His resurrection, He appeared to some of His followers. He gave Peter a specific pastoral assignment that included a great sacrifice.

Peter, responded to the Lord by deflecting it to John saying, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus told Peter, "If I wanted him to live until I come back, that is not your business. You follow me" (John 21: 21 -22).

In other words, do not occupy yourself with other person's assignment; stay focused on your own.

## **A Prayer to Shine**

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5: 16).

Heavenly Father, work our lives in such a way that people may see You shining forth.

Help us to break free from the selfishness and sin that prevent us from being conformed in your

image and from exposing your holiness, In Jesus' name we pray.

## **Lord, Grant Us Your Peace**

Admonitions that could lead us to God's peace - the peace which surpasses all understanding. They will guard your hearts and minds (Philippians 4: 4 - 8).

- 1) Rejoice in the Lord always. Celebrate God's goodness.
- 2) Let your requests be known to God. Ask God for help.
- 3) Leave your problems in God's hands...with thanksgiving.
- 4) Meditate on good things. Think about the things that are good and worthy of praise.

If you want peace, follow these admonitions from Paul.

God is ready to give His peace to you.

God's peace will make you sleep well tonight and will make you smile tomorrow. You will reframe the way you face your fears. You will learn to talk yourself off the ledge. You will view bad news through the lens of God's sovereignty. You will discern the lies of Satan. You will tell yourself the truth.

It is not God's will for you to live in a perpetual state of fear and anxiety.

It is not God's will that you face everyday with dread and trepidation.

Jesus spoke to storms. I am sure He will speak to your own storms, too. He calmed the hearts of the Apostles. He will calm yours, too. Jesus told them not to fear. He will say the same to you.

We are weary of our worry. We are being battered by the storms of life. May the Prince of Peace send the spirit of calmness.

As we go through the storms of life, help us quench our anxiety and help us stir our courage, in your Most Holy Name, we pray.

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## **Pope Francis's March Prayer Intention:**

### **Freedom from Addiction**

We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

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### **Quote:**

Apply your heart to instruction, and your ear to words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12

**Quest:** Conceit may pump a man up, but never prop him up.

**Quip:** As a rule the fellow who toots his own horn the loudest is in the biggest fog.

### **A joke a priest can tell...**



A father came home from a tough day at the office and said to his wife.

"I've had a bad day. Please, if you have any bad news tonight, keep it to yourself".

To which the wife replied, "Okay. No bad news. Now for the good news, remember we have four children? Three of them did not break an arm today."

Poor husband, he did not know whether to laugh or get mad.

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