

Easter Sunday

Here is a fragment of the letter that Saint Catherine of Siena wrote to a brother who was considering leaving the religious life [Saint Catherine of Siena, Letters vol II, p 507]:

Go into the tomb of self-knowledge, and with Magdalen ask, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for me? For the stone (that is, the guilt of sin) is so heavy that I can't budge it."

And as soon as you have acknowledged and confessed how imperfect and heavy you are, you will see two angels, who will roll this stone away. I mean that divine help will send you the angel of holy love and reverence for God (a love that is never alone but gives us the company of love for our neighbors), and the angel of hatred (accompanied by true humility and patience), to roll this stone away.

So, with true hope and lively faith, never leave the tomb of self-knowledge. Persevere in staying there until you find Christ risen in your soul by grace. Once you have found him, go and proclaim it to your brothers – and your brothers are the true, solid, lovely virtues with whom you want to and do take up your residence.

Then, Christ lets you touch him in continual humble prayer by appearing to your soul in a way you can feel. This is the way; there is no other.