

April 9, 2020 – Holy Thursday

John 13:1-15

Love one another as I have loved you. John 13:34

As Catholic Christians we are called to love like Christ... “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should do” (John 13:15). There is absolutely nothing Catholic about abuse and exploitation. In fact, the objectification of sacred human persons that is at the core of abuse is in exact opposition to our call to self-giving love in imitation of Christ. The abuse and exploitation of any human person is truly an evil. To quote Father John Ricardo, “the best way to combat evil is to be intentionally Catholic – to know Christ and to make Him known – to love Christ and to share His love.” To create a culture of healing and protection in our world today we must be Intentionally Catholic.

Jesus, help us to love as you do. Make us aware of every action, interaction, and attitude we express. Fill us with your presence so that all who experience us encounter you. Amen.

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April 10, 2020 – Good Friday

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 18:1-19:42

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So, let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. – Hebrews 4:16

Our heart breaks at the death of Jesus. We are haunted by the images of his betrayal, denial and torture by those he loved. There is nothing any of us have suffered that He cannot understand. There is no pain he cannot grasp. There is nothing he would not sacrifice for love of you.

Jesus, help us remember how deeply you understand our pain. Be present to all who feel betrayed, denied, and tortured by someone they love. Wrap your love around us, give us hope. Amen.

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April 20, 2019 – Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2 or Genesis 1:1, 26-31A
Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Psalms 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20, 22
Genesis 22:1-18 or Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18
Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11
Exodus 14:15-15:1

Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18

Isaiah 54:5-14

Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13

Isaiah 55:1-11

Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6

Baruch 3:9-15, 32C4:4

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Ezekiel 36:16-17A, 18-28

Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2-3, 4BCD, 5-6 or Psalms 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19

Romans 6:3-11

Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Matthew 28:1-10

Tonight, we reflect on the high points of salvation history – our history – God’s love story for us. It is hard to be patient for the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, but so important to remember the whole story. Regardless of what our own personal journey has been, it is easy for us to become consumed by our daily lives - focusing on what is before us, not what is beyond us. The experience of abuse and trauma is so profound that it can be a challenge to focus on anything beyond. Traumatic memories are often over-whelming and the experience of trauma changes the lens through which we view all that is before us. Jesus has a love story for each-and-every one of us and it is bigger than the struggles of today or the worst thing that has ever happened to us. Our story begins with our creation in the image and likeness of God. Each one of us is “unique, special, gifted and graced... a never to be repeated wonder in all of God’s creation.” Our story culminates with Jesus’ total gift of himself for us. Though unwelcome characters may enter our story and we may encounter unexpected, even horrifying, turns in the plot, nothing that has ever happened to us or ever will happen to us can change the theme – that of our inherent dignity and Jesus’ infinite love for us.

Jesus, as we reflect on your love story for the entire human race, help us remember your personal love story for us. When we are challenged with adverse experiences help us keep the perspective that there is so much more to our story. Let us be always mindful of our dignity as sacred human persons and of your infinite love for us. Amen.

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