

Child Abuse Prevention Month Reflections 2020

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday
The Resurrection of the Lord
Lectionary: 42

The Mass of Easter Day

Reading 1 [ACTS 10:34A, 37-43](#)

Oh, to have been witness to the power of Jesus against evil in the days of the disciples! Too often in our world where evil runs rampant we forget that the Holy Spirit is with us and that the power of Jesus is still available to heal us and free us from oppression. We imagine that we are all alone in the fight and we feel overwhelmed. Let us never hesitate to invoke the name of Jesus when we are in the face of evil.

May the Lord Jesus Christ be with me, that He may defend me; may He be within me, that He may conserve me; may He be before me, that He may lead me; may He be after me, so that He may guard me; may He be above me, that He may bless me, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen

Responsorial Psalm [PS 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23.](#)

Reading 2 [COL 3:1-4](#)

It is all too easy, especially in times of suffering and uncertainty to be focused on our earthly struggles. Traumatic experiences, such as abuse and exploitation, bring with them intrusive thoughts and memories, fears and anxieties, that are hard to ignore. Often these memories are so vivid and automatic emotions so strong it can feel like the abuse is happening all over again. Collectively these post-traumatic symptoms are referred to as “re-experiencing symptoms.” With repeated trauma, the pathways to these thoughts and feelings, this “re-experiencing,” can become hard-wired, suppressing the action of our “thinking brain” and spurring into action of our “doing” brain. Even in the absence of a present danger we are prepared to fight, flee, or freeze to protect ourselves. The call to “think of what is above, not what is on earth” can be a huge challenge, yet it is this very focus on the promise of what is to come that can bring us joy in the midst of sorrow and peace in the midst of suffering.

*Dear Lord,
Help me to remember in these troubled times
The cross you carried for my sake,
So that I may better carry mine
And to help others do the same,
As I offer up (whatever your concern or problem here) to you
For the conversion of sinners
For the forgiveness of sins
In reparation for sins
And for the salvation of souls.*

Amen

Gospel [JN 20:1-9](#)

Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark and saw the stone removed from the tomb...

It takes great courage to emerge from the darkness of abuse and exploitation. Virtually everything about abuse and exploitation pulls for silence. Individuals who exploit encourage secrecy through the process of grooming and coercion. Individuals who are exploited are made to believe that they will not be heard or believed or that they will be shamed by others for disclosing abuse. Family members and other adults in authority fear scandal and experience shame and guilt for their failure to prevent the abuse. As Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter and the other disciple to emerged from the darkness of Jesus' passion and death, they did not immediately recognize the joy of the resurrection. It was not until they entered the tomb that they believed. What can we do to help bring the assurance of the resurrection to those who are living in the darkness of abuse and exploitation?

Holy Spirit,

Accompany all who are affected by abuse and exploitation. Fill them with the light of Christ's resurrection that they may have the courage to disclose abuse. Enlighten those who will listen that they may offer protection and bring the light of Christ to them. Guide me in my interactions with others so that when other's encounter me, they are assured of Christ's love.

Amen