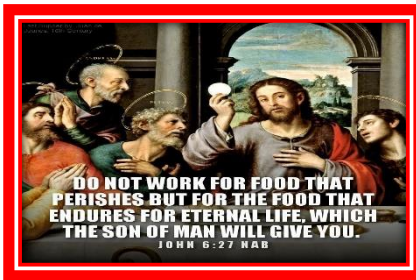
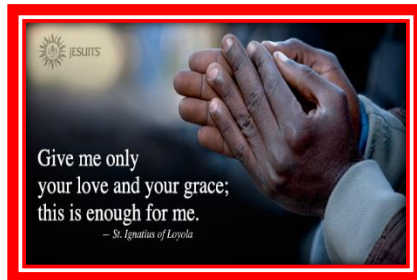


**April 27, 2020 – Monday of the 3rd Week of Easter**



Learn to accept  
people for  
**WHO THEY ARE,**  
not who you want  
them to be!

**“Transcending and rising up higher, to live our lives in the grandeur of Jesus and His Everlasting Kingdom, instead of merely being fixated in slimy earthly pleasures!”  
(Acts 6:8-15 and Jn 6: 22-29)**

There is an old legend of a swan and a crane. A beautiful swan alighted by the banks of the water, in which a crane was wading about, seeking snails. For a few moments, the crane viewed the swan in incredulous wonder and then inquired: "Where do you come from?" "I come from heaven!" replied the swan. "And where is heaven?" asked the curious crane. "Heaven!" said the swan, "Heaven! Have you never heard of heaven?" And the beautiful bird went on to describe the grandeur of the Eternal City. She told of streets of gold, and the gates and walls made of precious stones; of the river of life, pure as crystal, upon whose banks is the tree whose leaves shall be for the healing of the nations. With eloquence, the swan described the beauty of the other world but none of it, strangely, seemed to arouse the slightest interest of the crane. Finally, the crane asked: "Are there any snails there?" "Snails??" repeated the swan; "No! Of course, there are not!" "Then," said the crane, as it continued its search along the slimy banks of the pool, "you can have your heaven. I only want snails!" The crane was satisfied with the lowly earthly "snails" and failed to have any interest for the divine "heavens".

How often we are also like this crane interested only in earthly affairs, and least attracted to the heavenly realms and busy only with gathering earthly pleasures but rejecting offers for heavenly happiness.

The Gospel of the Day presents Jesus chiding the people for following Him, just for the sake of earthly desires, and instead, invites and exhorts them to seek for higher and heavenly longings in life. "Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you" (Jn 6: 27)

**1. Look for Jesus as the giver of food that endures to eternal life.**

There tends to be a restlessness in all of us. That restlessness drives us to make contact with other people; it often leads us to set out on a journey of one kind or another, whether it is a physical journey or an inner journey. There is something of the searcher, the seeker, in us all. At the deepest level of our being, we are searching for God. It was Saint Augustine who said that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. In the gospel reading this morning, the people of Galilee set out to look for Jesus. He had fed the multitude in the wilderness; this had made a great impression on them. Jesus was pleased that they came looking for him, but he wanted to refine their search. **They looked for him as the giver of bread; Jesus wanted them to look for him as the giver of food that endures to eternal life.** As Christians, we are all searching for Jesus in some sense. The gospel reading invites us to pay attention to why we are searching for him. What are we looking to him for? What do we expect from him? Perhaps, like the people of Galilee, our expectations are too small. What Jesus can offer us, more than anything else, is eternal life, a sharing in God's own life. This sharing in God's life begins here and now for those who turn to Jesus in faith and comes to fullness in the life beyond death.

## **2. Search for Jesus for who he is rather than for what he can give us. Same is true in our relationship with others**

To look for Jesus, to search for him, is a good thing. Yet, Jesus suggests to the crowd that they are searching for him for the wrong reasons. They want more of the bread that Jesus provided in the wilderness. They are searching for the material bread that Jesus had given them earlier, rather than for Jesus himself. Yes, Jesus gave them bread in the wilderness to eat, but, more importantly, he himself is the Bread of Life who can satisfy their deepest hunger, their spiritual hunger. In this morning's gospel, **Jesus calls on us to search for him for who he is rather than for what he can give us.** The temptation is always to relate to people for what they might be able to give to us rather than relating to them for who they are. **We are called to love others for themselves rather than for what we can get from them.** What is true of our relationship with others is true to a greater extent of our relationship with Jesus. Rather than seeking the consolations of the Lord, we are to seek the Lord of consolation. In the words of this morning's gospel reading, we are to believe in the one that God has sent.

What is needed, therefore, is a proper prioritizing. Do God and the Heavenly realities mean more to me, than earthly desires? Does Jesus and His Virtues occupy a primal position in my life, than the worldly values? A true prioritizing and firm conviction alone can help us to be the true witnesses of Jesus, the Messiah.

Are we going to be a people, merely fixed in searching, through the slimy banks, for 'snails' of earthly pleasures? Or we going to be a people, who can transcend and rise up higher, to live our lives in the grandeur of Jesus and His Everlasting Kingdom?

**Let us pray:**

Lord Jesus, You alone can satisfy the deepest longing and hunger in our hearts. May I always hunger for the imperishable bread, that I may be satisfied in You alone as the True Bread of Heaven. Nourish and strengthen me that I may serve You with great joy, generosity, and zeal all the days of my life.

**Jesus, I Trust In You**