

Minister's Message

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National Minister



Gethsemane by Marsani

“Love is patient; Love is kind...” in the words of St. Paul. I begin this edition's message with a word of thanks for your patience and your outpouring of love and good wishes at Christmas. I can't possibly respond to all who sent me cards and e-messages, but please know that I am grateful. You certainly made me feel affirmed and I am very grateful for your prayers.

Can it be Lent already? By the time you receive this issue of TAU-USA, Lent will have begun and I invite you to reflect with me on the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians (1Cor. 4-13). We, Franciscans, cherish our traditional belief that Jesus became man because of God's love for His people and for this love; he suffered, was crucified and died for us. Join me in reflection upon God's love as it is revealed in the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Agony in the Garden: Jesus prays “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will but as You will...” We hear an echo of the Lord's Prayer – Thy will be done. Can I, do I say this when the difficulties of life arise? Do I trust in God's love and mercy, certain that He will not abandon me? “Love believes all things; hopes all things...”

My prayer is simple. “Lord, fill me with faith, hope and love.”

The Scourging at the Pillar and the Crowning with Thorns: “Love...does not seek its own interests.” Jesus, for love of us, bore this terrible pain and humiliation. When I suffer physical ills and pain or when I have been

humiliated can I, do I say “All for you Lord Jesus Christ who suffered pain and humiliation for love of me?” Knowing God loves and cares for us, enables us to move ahead with confidence, trust and hope that God will see us safely through this difficult time. Hail, King of the Jews. Hail, King of our hearts.

My prayer: Jesus I trust in You.

The Crucifixion and death of our Lord: Father, forgive them...” “Love never fails...”

“...forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...” In the last moments of His earthly life, Jesus forgave those who persecuted Him. What a special lesson of unconditional love I learn at this moment. Have I forgiven those who have offended me as I have asked the Father to forgive me? As we read in the Gospel “Have I laid my gift at the altar” and gone to reconcile with my brother/sister?

My prayer: “Lord make me an instrument of your peace; your comfort; your joy.”

And on Easter Sunday, may we pray together as we celebrate the Resurrection, the great triumph of God's endless and unconditional love, “for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.”

And always, my prayer for you is that the Sacred Heart of Jesus will surround you with His love and fill your life with His abundant blessings!

HAPPY EASTER!



Eternal Life by Richard Judson Zolan