



April 2014

## **EASTER MESSAGE BY OUR PARISH PRIEST:**

Dear Parishioners,

The empty tomb revealed that Jesus is alive. He is not here. The resurrection event remains a mystery for those who do not believe but for those who saw the signs that He is no longer in the tomb .....

He is truly risen. Jesus did not intend His resurrection to be mystery that immobilized those persons who come to discover the setting of the empty tomb. There are moments in our lives that we feel paralyzed, stunned, discouraged, and we are unable to move forward and do not understand the ways that God does everything with our little mind.

The women were astonished and overjoyed in seeing the Risen Lord and approached to embrace His feet and pay homage to Him. But Jesus was quick to admonish them..."Go, tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

Brothers and sisters, let us leave this place (the place where we are entombed by our death events) and start announcing the good news: Christ is Risen. Have courage and let us go to Galilee to meet the Lord.

**HAPPY EASTER TO ALL. ALELLUIA!**

**GOD BLESS YOU ALL**

**I REMAIN,**



**Fr. Uldarico C. Camus, Ofm Cap  
Parish Priest**

# Food for thought

**Mt 28:8-10.11b-13.15**

Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell his disciples. And suddenly, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, clasping his feet, they did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; there they will see me.' Some of the guards went off into the city to tell the chief priests all that had happened. These held a meeting with the elders and, after some discussion, handed a considerable sum of money to the soldiers with these instructions, 'This is what you must say, "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep."' So they took the money and carried out their instructions, and to this day that is the story among the Jews.

- The **women believed** that Jesus had risen from His death just by seeing the empty tomb. With such great faith, Jesus appeared to them first to reward their faith in Him.
- The **chief priests** on the other hand not only **did not believe**, but were also **scheming** through bribery to cover up all evidences of the historical reality of Christ's resurrection. Jesus did not appear to these people.
- **Is your faith in God** stronger than the believing women or do you constantly seek more evidences of God's love before you trust Him? What is the Risen Lord saying to you this Easter Season?



It is that time of the year when the Legion throughout the whole world, both individually and collectively, renews its commitment to the Mother of God. The Handbook puts it very simply: "Bearing in mind the importance of devotion to Mary in the Legion system, each year there shall be a consecration of legionaries to Our Lady. The consecration - which shall comprise both an individual and collective consecration - shall take place on the 25th of March or on a day close thereto, and will be known as the Acies." The first Acies meeting took place on the 29th of March 1931 just ten years after the founding of the Legion. It was a simple, beautiful, inspiring and formative celebration and is now the great central annual function of the Legion. It is a magnificent principle of renewal for the Legion.

The Handbook explains the core meaning of the Acies as follows: "The essential idea of the Legion, upon which all else is built, is that of working in union with and in dependence on Mary, its Queen. The Acies is the solemn expression of that union and dependence, the renewal - individual and collective - of the legionary declaration of fealty." The words of individual consecration to Mary are brief but they include everything most precious to the Legion spirit and vocation. "I am all yours, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is yours." This brief formula of consecration sums up the whole teaching of St. Louis Marie de Montfort and the Legion.

The Handbook gives us an important reminder that the words of our consecration to Mary 'should not be mechanically or thoughtlessly pronounced. Each one of us should compress into it the fullest degree of understanding and gratitude.' What we publicly and solemnly proclaim must be first nourished and rooted in our hearts. Our whole personhood and all that we possess both in terms of material and spiritual goods we give to Mary. Absolutely nothing is held back from her. As legionaries we are defined by this total consecration to and dependence on Mary. And of course it means that all we are and possess is given to Jesus but through and in Mary. There is no better way of being totally centered in Christ.

Sometimes it might happen that we become overwhelmed with meetings, discussions, many tasks, difficulties and vexing questions from within the Legion and from outside it. So it is vital for us to remember that the Legion revolves around a person - the person of the Mother of God. That is why the Legion altar is so important for us. It tells us who is running the Legion. The Acies should have the same effect. We recall the often quoted words of Cecily Hallack in her book on the Legion: "The Legion does not fight as a collection of people dedicated to Mary, but as Mary." We desire to be a continuation of the presence and work of Mary in the world - putting everyone in saving contact with Jesus. Mary is not simply the patroness of the Legion. She is so much more. She is our Mother and Queen and we seek to be the instruments of her maternal care for the mystical Body of Christ and the whole of human kind. All these thoughts come to our minds and stir our hearts as we celebrate the annual Acies. It is our relationship with Mary that puts warmth in our hearts amid the relentless efforts and sometimes stress of the apostolate.

As the years go by in our membership of the Legion we should be able to make our consecration to Mary with greater love and understanding. A help towards this is the constant prayerful study of the Handbook as a whole and especially A Marian Synthesis contained as an appendix of the Handbook. There can be little doubt that if we really put our mind and heart into this consecration to Mary at the Acies it will be an infallible principle of renewal for ourselves and the whole Legion. On the other hand, the Handbook rightly says: "Hence it is manifest that any legionaries who can attend, and fail to do so, have little or none of the spirit of the Legion in them. The membership of such persons is not an asset to the Legion." I hope and pray that there are no legionaries who would not make some sacrifice in order to be with their fellow legionaries in making their total consecration to Mary, the Mother of God and the Mother of each one of us. Our consecration is our thanksgiving to Mary for all that she has done for us and for all she means to us. And we should never forget that every grace and blessing that we have received and will receive comes to us through her.

## Saint of the Month 'St Catherine of Siena' April 29



St Catherine of Siena is regarded as one of the greatest saints in the Catholic world; mostly because of her influence of the renunciation of the opulent Papal court at Avignon, and because she was a lay person with such deep theological knowledge.

She was born in Siena in March 1347, the 25<sup>th</sup> child of a wool dyer! At an early age she felt called to a life dedicated to the Lord and became a lay Dominican. Even from childhood she is said to have experienced great mystical union with the Lord which compelled her to become an anchorite, that is, one who retires from the world and seeks an austere life. She is said to have undergone periods of

celestial visitations and conversations with Christ and certain 'spiritual espousals' by 1366.

But Catherine was not so heavenly bound as to be of no earthly good .....She was soon to re-join her family, where she attended to the sick and to those who bore the most hideous and cruellest of illnesses. As with most saints who bear such witness, Catherine attracted men and women followers, forming a spiritual fellowship. By 1370 she underwent a strange mystical experience trapping herself in a trance wherein she gained insight into the spiritual realities of Heaven, Hell and Purgatory. It was during this period that Catherine was summoned to leave her anchoritic lifestyle and to enter public life.

Catherine's intelligence and charm would serve her well in a life of diplomacy, a diplomacy which would see her interact with the princes of Italy; unto Papal legates and even unto Pope Gregory XI himself as she implored him to leave Avignon and return to Rome. This move she believed would be an important step in the true reformation of the church and bring clarity to the ordinary folk who had long been confused by rivals to the Papal thrones and the consequential factions that emerged as a result. The pope would return to Rome by 1377 due to the deep impression Catherine made upon him and her zealous and yet unsuccessful mission as ambassador to Florence as an effort to avert war and secure peace with the Papal States.

The following year she was sent back to Florence by Pope Gregory to make fresh efforts to secure peace where an attempt was made upon her life. Her escape caused her great distress as she so longed to be a martyr for Christ. Back home in Siena she wrote her famous 'dialogues' in relative quiet before being summoned by the new Pope Urban VI. In his service she worked tirelessly for the reformation of the church and in service to the destitute and the afflicted. She wrote so many letters on behalf of the pope, her work of diplomacy and charity draining her all the while and leading her closer to the moment when she would part this life and slip into eternity. Some have referred that this 'woman' bore the bark of Peter upon her own shoulders and it was this weight that was her undoing. Her final accomplishment on the political stage was a reconciliation of the Pope with the Roman Republic in 1380, the year in which her earthly pilgrimage was complete.

Catherine of Siena stands today as a great role model for the Christian woman. She was a woman of great service and dedication; faithful to a church authority which at times frustrated her but which she served because she was in love, in love with the Saviour. She brought to her mission the beautiful maternal qualities of gentleness and compassion mixed with charisma and a profound intellect, which she used in service to God and his people, for the propagation of the faith and the promotion of peace. She is one of the most brilliant theologians of the Church and dying at the sacred age of 33, she died having suffered the marks of the Lord.

She is among the mysterious incorruptible saints, whose body was found intact in 1430.

***"If you are what you should be, you will set the world ablaze" – St Catherine of Siena***