



Of Seeds and Flowers



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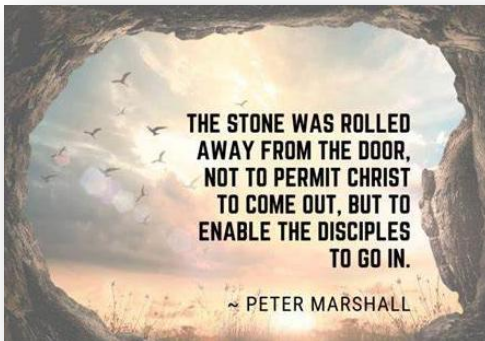
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"Christianity is the most encouraging, the most joyous of all the religions in the world. There is no religion which throws off the burdens of life so completely, which gives so large a scope for the high spirits of the soul, and which welcomes to its bosom with so warm an embrace those things of beauty which are joys forever. The Christian religion has arduous phases ... but the end of it all is a Resurrection and not a burial, a festival and not a funeral, an ascent into the heights and not a lingering in the depths." - L.B. Jacks

The best news that the world ever had came from a graveyard near Jerusalem!



"Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards Him; *He awaits you with open arms.*"
- Pope Francis

"The Gospel of Christ's resurrection fills the heart with joy! Our mind nearly stops, because it knows that this news is more astounding than the burning bush in the Old Testament ... A triumphant love song is already beginning."
- Catherine Doherty

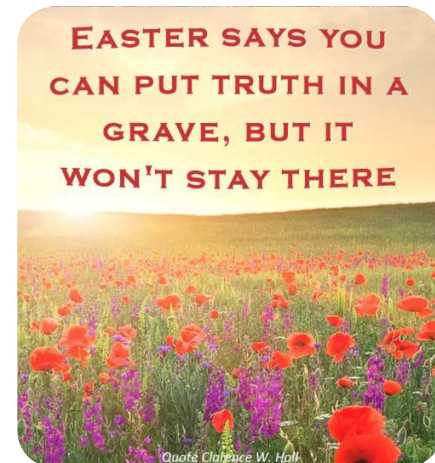
"All I want is to know Jesus Christ and the *power of His Resurrection* flowing through me." - St. Paul

"ON EASTER SUNDAY MORNING, LET US CELEBRATE A FUNERAL, THE DAY DEATH AND SIN DIED." - Goering

Our Lord revealed to St. Teresa of Avila that it was to His mother that He first appeared after His Resurrection.



*"Anyone can be sentimental about the Nativity; any fool can feel like a Christian at Christmas. But **Easter** is the main event .. "* - John Irving



"The Resurrection of Christ was God's supreme and wholly marvelous work."
- Augustine

"To live in the light of the Resurrection - that is what Easter means." - Bonhoeffer

A DROP OF RAIN... A BIT OF SUN.

March 19th is the Feast of St. Joseph and, with China and the Corona Virus in the news, I thought this TRUE STORY about China and St. Joseph would provide a gentle lift for your beautiful heart: Saint Joseph is loved so much in China, that, among the boys born into Christian families, a great number of them receive the name Joseph. If you don't happen to know the name of a priest, call him Father Joseph, and fifty percent of the time you'll be right! In return, St. Joseph is not stingy with them. Among the many Jesuit Priests over the centuries who travelled across China inspiring the people there, one Austrian brother stands out, Brother Gervasius.

In 1976 he gave an account that could be found in the stories from the lives of the saints." In Southern China, Brother Gervasius had accompanied Father Gotsch, another Jesuit Priest, who was going to the home of a dying man in Kaotai. They needed to cross 200 kilometers of mountains and hills on horseback to arrive at the house. But when they presented themselves, they were too late. The man had already died. They stayed to bury him, and after the burial they took to the road again. Halfway home they encountered a young man who seemed to be waiting for them on the side of the road. The man asked them to follow him to his sick mother's house. They followed him for nearly 15 kilometers to a little village. There, in a ramshackle dwelling, a woman was dying. Seeing the priest, she asked him, **"Stranger, will you tell me the truth, if I ask you a question?"**

"Certainly, Mother."

"Does there exist a God in which there are three persons? Does there exist another life, with a place of happiness for good, and a place of terror for the bad? Is it true that God came to this earth to die for mankind and open for them this place of happiness? Stranger, is it true, all of that?"

Stupefied, the priest answered, **"Yes!"** But he wondered from whom this woman could have learned all of that? The sick woman continued, **"You have the water with you. Wash me so I can go into the place of happiness!"**

Brother Gervasius couldn't understand how she knew that the priest had holy water, to use for baptisms, with him. Her determined attitude had something childish, but convincing about it. The priest briefly explained the liturgy to her and the meaning of the sacrament, then he baptized her.

The sick woman, continued full of joy, **"You also have the bread with you. It's special bread, because God is inside it. Give me some of this bread!"** The priest took from his bag the consecrated host that he carried with him. The sick woman knew that he had "the Bread"!

The priest explained the meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist to her, and gave her holy Communion. He also gave her the last rites. Then he said to her, **"Up until now you have been asking all the questions. Now it's my turn to ask you some! From whom did you learn the truths of the faith? Did you meet some Catholic believers?"**

"No, Stranger."

"So, you have read Christian books?"

"I don't know how to read, stranger, and I didn't even know books like that existed."

"So, from where, and from whom did you acquire this knowledge of the faith?"

"I have always thought that that is the way it should be, and for the past ten years I have lived that way. I have also instructed my sons in this way, and you can wash all of them," (she meant baptize them)

"But you knew that we would be passing near here today?"

"Of course! saw a man in a dream, and it was he who told me to send my youngest son out to the road, and to call to the two strangers who would pass by. He told me that they were going to "wash" me so that I could go to the place of happiness after death."

The missionaries were profoundly touched. The attitude of this woman facing death was so peaceful that there was no room for doubt.

Before leaving, the missionaries offered her a picture of Saint Joseph, patron saint of the dying. Filled with joy, she cried out, **"But this is him! I know him! He has often come to visit me. He was the one who told me to send my son to the road to call you!"**

She didn't know if it had been a dream, or if St. Joseph really came to visit her in person. In any case, that wasn't the important thing. The important thing was what St. Joseph had taught the sick woman. The missionaries learned later that the woman died that very night.

VISION AND REALITY

CORONA VIRUS AND CHILDREN: One of the unexpected good side effects of the Corona Virus experience is the discovery of who is raising the children or better, who is not raising the children. Two weeks of no school, in the middle of the year, creates a frantic scramble to find someone, anyone to care for the children. Many parents, if they stop and reflect on the whole picture, are feeling tension, some guilt, some unwholesome neglect in their past relationship with their children. Tension and guilt are good when they tell us "something isn't quite right", and that the truth about raising well adjusted, whole children is being violated.

Some children have a longer day in daycare than their parents do at work. -some children since they are 6 weeks old, sacrificed on the altar of career and personal fulfillment. NOT GOOD for children. Not writing here about the parents that have no other choice but day care. God bless them!

Never let your career become more important than your vocation to be mother, father, husband, wife, brother, sister, friend. The results are disastrous! Ask any teacher! 40 years of teaching here. Six kids, raised them all. Charles Wahl, Ph. D. USC. "We now know all we need to know about how to raise happy , emotionally and psychologically well adjusted children and, if we did this for one generation, we could change the world."

"America, the country that pretends to care for its children".

FACT, FEELING, and FAITH: Three companions - Mr. Fact, Mr. Feeling, and Mr. Faith were walking along, one in front of the other on top of a wall. Suddenly Mr. Feeling, who was last in line, and who was not noted for his good balance or judgment slipped and fell from the wall. He lay groaning on the ground. Mr. Fact, distracted by the loss of his companion, also slipped and fell from the wall. Only Mr. Faith remained. He was not moved easily and stood firm as a rock. By doing so, he was able to help Mr. Fact to get back up. At last, between Mr. Fact and Mr. Faith, they were able to restore a shaken Mr. Feeling back up on the wall and to continue their journey.

"A person overcome by passion is like a person drunk, asleep or insane."

- Aristotle

It is said that when Leonardo Da Vinci was working on his famous painting of the Last Supper, he became very angry at one of his assistants. With a flurry of vicious epithets, he berated the man without mercy. Then he went back to his canvas. However, as he tried to work on the face of Jesus, he couldn't do it. No matter how hard he tried, he was unable to paint the face of Christ. So he stopped painting, went to the man who had received the full force of his anger, and asked his forgiveness. Only when the man forgave him and they were reconciled was Da Vinci able to return to the table of the Last Supper and paint the face of Jesus.

"For lovers of this world,
there is no harder work
than not working."

- Augustine

Every hour you pray adds
two hours to your day.

**To forgive is to set
a prisoner free and
discover that the
prisoner was you.**

- Lewis B. Smedes



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SPEAKING SOFTLY : After 33 years of the Blessed Mother appearing to Mirjana Soldo, the Medjugorje visionary, on the second of each month, Mary, on March 18th of this year, told Mirjana she will no longer be appearing on the 2nd of the month. Mary said she will appear to Mirjana only on the 18th of March each year which is Mirjana's birthday. Mary, a while back, said these appearances on earth will be the last time she will appear on earth. "Things" are happening. I suspect that God is quite unhappy about the way " things" are in His world. Serious prayer, choosing and resting in God, are the wise things to do!!-and be at peace!

Mary's message to Mirjana on March 18th 2020: *"Dear children, My Son, as God, always looked above and beyond time. I, as His mother, through Him, see in time. I see beautiful and sad things. But I see that there is still **love**, and that it needs doing for it to be known. My children, you cannot be happy if you do not **love** each other, if you do not have **love** in every situation and at every moment of your life. Also, I, as a mother, am coming to you through **love**—to help you to come to know true **love**, to come to know my Son. This is why I am calling you, always anew to thirst all the more for **love**, faith, and hope. The only spring from which you can drink is trust in God, my Son.*

*My children, in moments of restlessness and renunciation just seek the face of my Son. Just live His words and do not be afraid. Pray and **love** with sincere feelings, with good works, and help others so that the world may change and that my heart may win. Like my Son, I am also saying to you: **love** each other because without **love** there is no salvation. Thank you my children."* 9, NINE TIMES THE WORD "**LOVE**"!!

*"Beloved, let us **LOVE** one another because **LOVE** is of God; EVERYONE who **LOVES** is begotten of God and has knowledge of God. The person without **LOVE** has known NOTHING of God, for God IS **LOVE**." 1 John4: 7-8.*

"There are those who seek knowledge to be seen by others; that is VANITY. There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve; that is LOVE." - St. Bernard

ISN'T IT GOOD TO KNOW THAT EVEN WHEN WE DON'T LOVE WITH A PERFECT LOVE, GOD DOES?

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