

The Women of the Passion



Lent is the special time of the year when we reflect on the passion of Jesus leading to his glorious Resurrection. During this season of grace, this year we could perhaps enrich ourselves and our spirituality by focusing on the passion through the stories of the women who either watched events from afar or who stood in a supporting role close to Jesus during these days. It is right that we allow them to speak of him to us and to enlighten us as to why his service to them brought so much pain upon him, and why so many of them formed guards of honor, as it were, as he made his final journey to his death.

Their stories will, hopefully, speak to us in our prayer, challenge us in our asceticism, arouse in us an attitude of gratitude, and bring peace to our souls. In addition, they will heighten our mission awareness and motivate us to good works in every area of our social relations and spirituality.

Woman who anointed Jesus at Bethany	Matt. 26: 10-11
Maidservants who challenged Peter	Mark 14: 66-72
Pilate's Wife	Matt. 27: 19
Women of Jerusalem	Luke 23: 27-31
Mary Magdalene	Mark 15: 40, 16: 9 John 19: 25, 20:16
Mary, Mother of James and Joses	
Salome	Mark 15: 40
Mary, Wife of Clopas	John 19: 25a
Mary, Mother of Jesus	John 19: 26-27

{adapted from *Women of the Passion* by Sr. Kathleen M. Murphy, RSM}

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**LENTEN MESSAGE
OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
2014**

He became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich
(cf. 2 Cor 8:9)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich" (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean for us today?

1. Christ's grace

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...". Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15). God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus "worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin." (Gaudium et Spes, 22).

[Go to <http://www.vatican.va/> to read the rest of the Holy Father's Lenten message]

Scripture Weekend Retreat

Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer

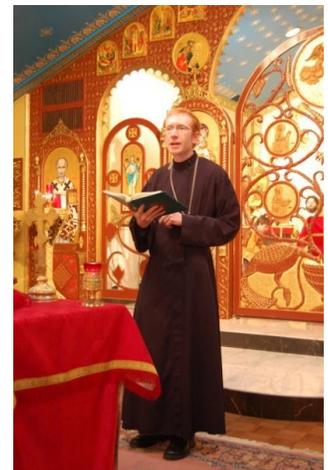
Date Change:

April 25-27, 2014

Father Daniel Forsythe will present: From Curiosity to Wonder: An Exploration of Old Testament Spirituality.

The program is a weekend retreat beginning on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and concluding on Sunday at 1 p.m.

The offering for this program is \$140 or \$115 for commuters. Registration is due on April 18. To register, please contact the House of Prayer at 724-438-7149.



SENSITIVITY OF HEART

A MEDITATION ON EZEKIEL 36: 25-29

I seek a heart that is attuned to listen
To the sounds of human life
The murmurings of pain and struggle
The babble of confusion and doubt
The whisperings of yearnings
The ecstatic outburst of joy and delight!

I seek a heart with an interior vision
That sees beyond the exterior
The peacefulness of a life well spent
The prayerfulness of the quiet
The agony of the fearful
The loneliness of the complainer.

I seek a heart imbued with feeling
That can penetrate closed walls
Walls that shut out closeness
Walls that prohibit friendship
Walls that choke out life.

I seek a heart that can open new avenues to life
By recognition of goodness
A freeing of humanness
And an appreciation of God's wonders.

I seek a heart that is other-centered
Motivated by love of GOD
Freely giving till it hurts
Joyfully surrendering selfish whims
Peacefully touching life with beauty
Gently walking in His way:



God, give me a heart of flesh,
I've had a heart of stone for so long...

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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Roman Soldier



*Roman soldier
Youthful lad*

*You were there on
The day so sad*

*You watched Him suffer
So close to the brink*

*What were you feeling?
What did you think?*

*Watching and hearing
A large angry crowd*

*Were you able to hear Him
Cry out o' so loud?*

*How has this hanging
And death on His cross
Changed over your heart?*

Did you realize our loss?

*It wasn't the outcome
Anyone would suppose*

*Were you guarding His tomb
On the morn that He rose?*

- Mary Ann Kosport

Saints, Scriptures & Solemnities

April 6
5th Sunday of the Great Fast
Mary of Egypt Venerable
Heb 9:11-14
Mk 10:32-45

April 13
Palm Sunday
Phil 4:4-9; Jn 12:1-18

April 14
Holy Monday
Ex 1:1-20; Job 1:1-12; Mt 24:3-35

April 15
Holy Tuesday
Ex 2:5-10; Job 1:13-22; Mt 24:36-26:2

April 16
Holy Wednesday
Ex 2:11-22; Job 2:1-10; Mt 26:6-16

April 17
Holy Thursday
Is 50:4-11; 1 Cor 11:23-32; Mt 26:2-20; Jn 12:3-17;
Mt 26:31-39; Lk 22:43-45; Mt 26:40-27:2

April 18
Good Friday
Is 52:13-1; 1 Cor 1:18-2:2; Mt 27:1-38; Lk 22:39-44;
Mt 27:39-54; Jn 19:31-37; Mt 27:55-61

April 19
Holy Saturday
Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-20

April 20
**Resurrection of Our Lord -
Easter Pascha**
Acts 1:1-8; Jn 1:1-17