

Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, 15-16 April 2017

“Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified; He is not here; for He has risen even as He said.” Mt. 28:5

The Solemnity of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday is the most joyful of feasts. It is Jesus’ triumph over death and a pledge of our own resurrection from the dead at the end of our life. The Angel tells this to the women at the tomb in today’s gospel (Mk. 16:1-7): *“Do not be terrified. You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here.”* Mk. 16: 6. St. Peter also tells us how important is Christ’s Resurrection from the dead: *“That through His name all who believe in Him may have forgiveness of sins in His name.”* Acts 10:43 By means of baptism, we have been cleansed of sin through Christ’s sacrifice as we see in today’s Epistle (I Cor. 5:7-8): *“Brethren, purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new paste, as you are unleavened: For Christ our Pasch is sacrificed.”* I Cor. 5:7. By Jesus’ Passion, Death and Resurrection, we have been freed from sin and reborn to eternal glory in heaven.

Jesus Conquers Death and Sin

Dom Gueranger in his *Liturgical Year, Vol. 7* calls Easter “the feast of feasts, and the solemnity of solemnities...It is on this day that the mission of the Word Incarnate attains the object towards which it has hitherto been tending: man is raised up from his fall and regains what he had lost by Adam’s sin.

“Christmas gave us the Man-God; three days have scarcely passed since we witnessed his infinitely precious Blood shed for our ransom; but now, on the day of Easter, our Saviour Jesus is no longer the victim of death; He is a conqueror, who destroys death, child of sin, and proclaims life, that undying life which He has purchased for us. The humiliation of his swathing-bands, the sufferings of his agony and cross, these are passed; all is now glory—glory for himself, and glory for us. On the day of Easter, God regains, by the Resurrection of the Man-God, his creation such as he made it at the beginning; the only vestige now left of death is sin, the likeness of which the Lamb of God deigned to take upon himself. Neither is it Jesus alone that returns to eternal life; the whole human race also has risen to immortality

together with our Jesus. ‘By a man came death,’ says the Apostle; and by a Man the Resurrection of the dead; and as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.’” (I Cor. 15:21-2) Gueranger, p. 1-2

Easter Sunday Is the Renewal of Creation

Again, Dom Gueranger recounts the glory of Christ’s Resurrection on the first day of the week “...whereby He conquered death and proclaimed life to the world. It was a favoured day of the week that he had, four thousand years previously, created light; by selecting it now for the commencement of the new life which he graciously imparts to man, he would show us that Easter is the renewal of the entire creation. Not only is it the anniversary of his glorious Resurrection to be, henceforward, the greatest of days, but every Sunday throughout the year is to be a sort of Easter, a holy and sacred day. The Synagogue, by God’s command, kept holy the Saturday or the Sabbath in honour of God’s resting after six days of the creation; but the Church, the Spouse, is commanded to honour the work of her Lord. She allows the Saturday to pass—it is the day on which her Jesus rested in the sepulchre; but, now that she is illumined with the brightness of the Resurrection, she devotes to the contemplation of his work the first day of the week; it is the day of light, for on it he called forth material light (which was the first manifestation of life upon chaos), and on the same, he that is the ‘Brightness of the Father’ (Heb. 1:3) and ‘the Light of the world,’ (Jn. 8:12), rose from the darkness of the tomb.” Gueranger, p. 16-7

The Eighth Day---of Eternity— Our New Sabbath

Dom Gueranger reminds us, “Let then, the week with its Sabbath pass by; what we Christians want is the eighth day, the day of eternity, the day whose light is not intermittent or partial, but endless and unlimited. Thus speak the holy Fathers, when explaining the substitution of the Sunday for the Saturday. It was indeed, right that man should keep, as the day of his weekly and spiritual repose, that on which the creator of the visible world had taken his divine rest; but it was a commemoration of the material world only. The Eternal Word comes down into the world that he has created;

he comes with rays of his divinity clouded beneath the humble veil of our flesh; he comes to fulfil the figures of the first Covenant. Before abrogating the Sabbath, he would observe it as the day of rest, after his Passion, in the silence of the sepulchre; but, early on the eighth day, he rises to life, and the life is one of glory. 'Let us,' says the Abbot Rupert, 'leave the Jews to enjoy the ancient Sabbath, which is a memorial of the visible creation. They know not how to love or desire or merit aught but earthly things...They would not recognize this world's creator as their king, because he said: "*Blessed are the poor*" and "*Woe to the rich!*" But our Sabbath has been transferred from the seventh to the eighth day, and the eighth is the first. And rightly was the seventh changed into the eighth day, because we Christians put our joy in a better work than the creation of the world... 'Let the lovers of the world keep a Sabbath for its creation; but our joy is the salvation of the world, for our life year and our rest is hidden in Christ in God.'" Gueranger, p. 17

"If you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father." Col. 3:1

Let us then seek the eternal Sabbath of the eternal light and rest which Jesus has purchased for us by His Precious Blood. Our true home is in heaven! Our salvation, the fruit of Christ's Passion and Resurrection, is guaranteed if we, *seek the things that are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father.*" Col. 3:1

Addenda

When Our Lady came to Fatima in 1917, she told the three children that **"Men must stop offending God. He is too much offended by sin."** She also said that if men do not repent that there would be a Second World War. She also said **"Whole nations would be annihilated."** In Akita, Japan on October 13 1973, she said, **"If men do not repent two-thirds of the world will be destroyed."** These punishments were all conditional on man's repentance. Our Lady said, **"In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to Me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world."** This prophecy of Our Lady's triumph will coincide with the words of St.

Lucia on the one Church and heaven. Dr. Roberto de Mattei, a noted Italian historian, reminds us of the importance of this new revelation which the Carmelite Sisters of Sr. Lucia's convent published in 2013.

"Allow me - (Italian historian Roberto de Mattei) - to recall a revelation from Our Lady at Fatima which we learned about only a few years ago; exactly in 2013 when the Carmel of Coimbra published the volume *Um Caminho sob o olhar de Maria.*"

"Around four o'clock in the afternoon on January 3rd 1944, in the convent chapel of Tuy, in front of the Tabernacle, Our Lady urged Sister Lucia to write the text of the Third Secret and Sister Lucia recounts:

"I felt my spirit inundated by a mystery of light that is God and in Him I saw and heard the point of a lance like a flame that is detached touch the axis of the earth and it trembles: mountains, cities, towns and villages with their inhabitants are buried. The sea, the rivers and clouds exceed their boundaries, inundating and dragging with them in a vortex, houses and people in a number that cannot be counted; it is the purification of the world from the sin in which it is immersed. Hatred, ambition, provoke the destructive war. After I felt my heart racing and in my spirit a soft voice that said: 'In time, one faith, one baptism, one Church, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic. In eternity, Heaven!' This word 'Heaven' filled my heart with peace and happiness in such a way that, almost without being aware of it, I kept repeating to myself for a long time: Heaven, Heaven!" *Um Caminho sob o olhar de Maria.*