



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

April 25-26, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

THE REAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

In Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, there is found the oldest passage in the New Testament concerning the actual celebration of the Eucharist:

"For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:23-27 New American Bible (Revised Edition/NABRE)

So often we tend to define the Church as an institution rather than as an event. By reflecting

upon the nature of the Eucharistic celebration we rediscover that the Church is not just another human institution or even just another religion within the pantheon of world religions, rather it is the event in which God transforms men and women through the *Prayer of Great Thanksgiving = Eucharist*, by receiving together as brothers and sisters in the Lord, his *Body and Blood*.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us of the essential elements of the liturgy by which Our Lord promised he would be present to his Church:

1352 The *anaphora*: with the Eucharistic Prayer - the prayer of thanksgiving and consecration - we come to the heart and summit of the celebration ...the Church gives thanks to the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, for all his works: creation, redemption, and sanctification.

1353 In the *epiclesis*, the Church asks the Father to send his Holy Spirit on the bread and wine, so that by his power they may become the body and blood of Jesus Christ and so that those who take part in the Eucharist may be one body and one spirit.

In the *institution narrative*, the power of the words and the action of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit, make sacramentally present under the species of bread and wine Christ's body and blood, his sacrifice offered on the cross once for all.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."

Saint Therese of Lisieux



Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The firm belief that Christ is present in the bread and wine offered by Holy Church to the Holy Trinity, to be transformed into the Body and Blood of its Savior, is held as an article of faith by all the *Ancient Churches* (Roman Catholic, Eastern Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Ancient Oriental Orthodox, Assyrian Orthodox).

In the disciples encounter with the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus in Luke's Gospel, there is given to the Church the *Apostolic Witness* that Christ is really present in ***Word (Sacred Scripture) and Eucharistic Mystery (Bread and Wine)***:

And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" - Luke 24:30-32 (NABRE)

In the Catholic Church the reawakening of *liturgical theology* that began in the nineteenth century and has continued forward in dialogue with the Orthodox Churches has led to the rediscovery that the *Eucharist makes the Church*. The Church is the Body of Christ in the world because its *Eucharistic Lord and Savior*, is present in the *Holy Mysteries* given to the faithful.

Rev. David A. Fisher

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

A message I saw.

The official lockdown started March 23 and will likely end May 1st. That is EXACTLY 40 days.

The Latin root of the word "quarantine" is "forty".

So what does the Bible say about 40?

The flood lasted 40 days.

40 years Moses fled Egypt.

40 days Moses stayed on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments.

Exodus lasted 40 years.

Jesus fasted for 40 days.

40 days for a woman to rest after giving birth.

Optimum number of weeks for human gestation is 40.

A group of theologians thinks the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person, or people, to make a fundamental change.

Something will happen after these 40 days. Just believe and pray. Remember, whenever the number 40 appears in the Bible, there is a "change".

Please know that during this "quarantine" rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is becoming cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft and murder, healing is happening, and most importantly, people are turning to Christ. The Earth is at rest for the first time in many years and hearts are truly transforming.

Remember we are in the year 2020, and $20 + 20 = 40$.

Also, 2020 is the year of the United States Census. Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, was born during a census.

Lastly, 2020 is perfect vision. May our sight focus on the Lord and living according to His perfect vision for us knowing He holds us in the palm of His hand. May these days of "quarantine" bring spiritual liberation to our souls, our nation, and our world.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Divine Ocean of Mercy and Compassion, be with us in our time of trial and difficulties. Today I make an act of spiritual communion with you, the Life-Giving Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this time, I am not able to receive the sacred body and blood of my Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, but I choose to live in union with him and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. I offer my day, my daily life, my joys and sorrows to you, for those around me, and for the whole world. Be with us O life-giving Triune God, for we know that nothing in this world has power over us. O Lover of all people, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month of April, the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Joseph and Louise Dupre by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to give an offering in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for the month of October, please see Fr. Vincent. The cost for the month is \$75.00, which covers the cost of the communion bread and wine. Thank you and God bless.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

ملخص العظة عمّاوس

ANNUAL BISHOPS CHARITY APPEAL

Saturday, April 25, @ 5:00 PM, (Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist) liturgy is being offered for the souls of Herve and Yvette LeBlanc and Joseph and Marie Kenyon requested by Mike and Diane LeBlanc. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, April 26, @ 10:30 AM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Fred Thomas, Joao and Fernanda Baptista, Mena Carvalho and Edigio Baptista requested by Fernanda Thomas. May their souls rest in peace.

Saturday, May 2, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Roufael Shoushlia Gabriel and the deceased members of their family requested by Joann, Anthony, and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, May 3, @ 10:30 PM, (Feast of Our Lady of Lebanon) Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Tommy and Josie Thomas requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo Roderick, Anthony (Tommy) Thomas, Rose John, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed DaRocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list please contact the Church office.

أحياناً، من الصعب علينا أن نفهم الأمور التي نعيشها ونختبرها، خصوصاً عندما نكون ضالين ومشتتين. هذا ما يحدث في إنجيل اليوم. إثنان من الرسل كانا ذاهبان من أورشليم إلى عمّاوس، تبعد حوالي سبعة أميال، وكانا يتحدثان عما حدث ليسوع. وإذا بيسوع يرافقهما ويتحدث إليهما. ونسمع أحدهما يقول "وكُنَّا نَحْنُ نَرْجُو أَنْ يَكُونَ هُوَ الَّذِي سَيَقْدِي إِسْرَائِيلَ".

فبدأ يسوع يعلمهما من جديد قائلاً: "أَمَا كَانَ يَجِبُ عَلَى الْمَسِيحِ أَنْ يُعَانِيَ تِلْكَ الْأَلَامَ، ثُمَّ يَدْخُلَ فِي مَجْدِهِ؟" وصار يذكرهما بما قاله الكتاب عنه ثم ابتعد عنهما.

تأثر التلميذان بكلام يسوع ومدى الحب الذي أظهره لهما وحزنا عندما رآه يغادر، فقالا ليسوع: "أَمْ كُنَّا نَمَعْنَا". ما حدث يخبرنا الكثير عن يسوع، وأنه يجب علينا أن نصغي إليه فيشرح لنا الأمور التي لا نفهمها. يخبرنا أنه يرافقتنا دائماً ولكنه لا يفرض نفسه علينا؛ يسوع يريدنا أن نعود إليه بإرادتنا. أعطانا الله أعظم هبة في العالم وهي الإرادة الحرة. يمكننا أن نختار بين دعوة يسوع إلينا وبين السماح بمروره بعيداً عنا.

أيها الإخوة والأخوات، خلال الشهرين الماضيين، نحن نسير بضلال وبتشتت. الناس تتساءل، لماذا يفعل بنا الله هذا؟ فهل هو من يقوم بذلك؟ كلا، انه ليس الله، ولكنه يُعلمنا بأنه سائر معنا في كل خطوة من طريقنا. يجعلنا نميز بين ما هو مهم وما هو غير مهم. يوضح لنا الله أن بعد كل مأساة هناك أمل. أمل بعلاقة جديد يكون يسوع في قائمتها. تماماً كمثل التلميذان على طريق عمّاوس: "وكُنَّا نَحْنُ نَرْجُو أَنْ يَكُونَ هُوَ الَّذِي سَيَقْدِي إِسْرَائِيلَ". نعلم أن بمسيرتنا على طريق عمّاوس، سوف يفتدينا بالسير معنا ومواساتنا والتأثير علينا بكلامه ومحبه فتريد بقاءه معنا. لعلّ هذا ما نريده في هذا الوقت. كلا، الله لم يفعل بنا هذا؛ ولكنه، لربما، يعرف أن هذا ما كنا بحاجة له لتشتعل قلوبنا خلال مسيرتنا على طريق عمّاوس.

إذاً، كيف سنتصرف بهبة الله العظيمة - الإرادة الحرة، أسندعو يسوع إلى حياتنا أم سنسمح له بالمرور بعيداً عنا.

Each year the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn appeals to each parish for the annual Bishops Charity Appeal. The money is divided as follows: 30% for priests' retirement, 25% go towards the seminarian's education and boarding, 15% goes toward our endowment fund, 15% goes to Patriarchal liturgical commission and texts, and 15% goes to Lebanon. Each parish in the eparchy is asked to send an amount based on the size of the parish and the ability to raise this money for these much-needed programs. OLOP Church must raise \$3,500.00 from February 24-April 10, 2020. All of you have been very generous in the past and I am confident we will raise the amount requested. Thus far we have collected \$1,163.00 toward that amount. I thank you for your continued generosity for this worthy cause.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ALL LITURGIES WILL BE AVIALABLE THROUGH ZOOM. PLEASE SEE THE SCHEDULE BELOW. I WILL SEND AN INVITATION FOR EACH SERVICE. I WILL ALSO SEND THE TEXT FOR EACH LITURGY SO THAT YOU MAY PARTICIPATE AT HOME. ALSO PLEASE BE SURE YOU PLACE YOUR PHONE OR COMPUTER ON MUTE ONCE YOU LOG INTO THE SERVICE.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION
FOR
April 18-19, 2020**

Sunday Collection \$ 1,545.00
 Donations for Others \$ 300.00
 Total: \$ 1,845.00

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
KINDNESS AND
GENEROSITY BY
SENDING IN YOUR WEEKLY
COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL.
THIS HAS BEEN VERY
HELPFUL FOR THE
CHURCH. GOD BLESS
YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.**

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