

Third Sunday of Easter April 26, 2020

You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.

— Acts 2:28

GOD'S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God's plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad, and confused, the two of them don't recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: All this had to happen as part of God's plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

--J. S. Paluch Co.

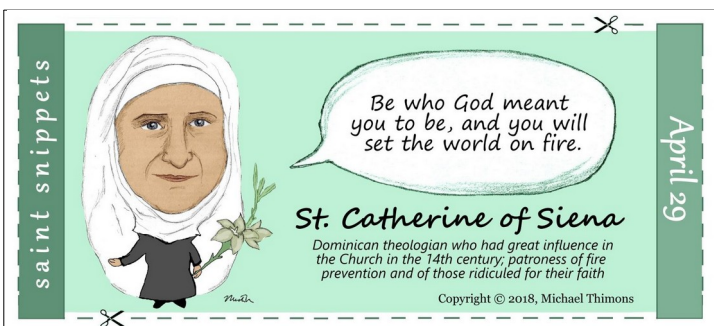
SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA (1347-1380) April 29

Imagine the pope receiving a young woman still in her twenties who addresses him as "my sweet Christ on earth," then orders: "Get back to Rome where you belong!" Amazingly, Gregory XI complied! Yet this was but one astonishing incident in the extraordinary life of Catherine of Siena, a truly unique medieval woman. Youngest of twenty-five children, Catherine refused marriage and became a Dominican Tertiary at sixteen, cloistering herself at home in contemplative prayer, austere penances, and mystical experiences, culminating in "spiritual espousal" to Christ. Then, incarnating the Dominican ideal of "passing on to others the fruits of contemplation," Catherine left her solitude to care for the poor, nurse the sick, comfort the dying, and bury the dead. Increasingly renowned for converting souls and healing bodies, she was sought after to broker peace during civil wars and Church schisms. All this, and like Jesus, whom she called "my Divine Spouse," she died at thirty-three! Four hundred letters and her spiritual classic *The Dialogue* inspired Paul VI to name her, together with Teresa of Ávila, the first women Doctors of the Church.

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 6:8-15; Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30; Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 7, 8a, 17, 21ab; Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8; Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a; Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40; Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20; Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: Acts 9:31-42; Ps 116:12-17; Jn 6:60-69
Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 23:1-6; 1 Pt 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10



Finance Corner: Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of **April/May** offerings:
PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish,
P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465 . Or donate at our website
www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card.
4/26: Rural Food. 5/3: Catholic Home Missions.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA
Finance Council [FC]: TBA
Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044
St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled for now
Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now

Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon: cancelled for now



✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Fr. Bala is more than willing to fulfill Mass Intentions in his daily Private Mass celebration. (There is a customary \$10 stipend for any Mass Intention.) But it is left to the wish of those who have already submitted (or have yet to submit) to the office their Intentions, as to choice of a private or public Mass. Email to philip.teresa@yahoo.com
Or leave a message at the alternate office number: 707-408-2650.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Tuesday: St. Peter Chanel; St. Louis Grignon de Montfort
Wednesday: St. Catherine of Siena
Thursday: St. Pius V
Friday: St. Joseph the Worker; First Friday
Saturday: St. Athanasius; First Saturday

Prayer Requests: Leave message at 707-408-2650. Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen,, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo [Ed] A., Castellini family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Shirley S., Gail F.

STAY WITH US, LORD

Walk with us, Lord,
along the road of resurrection!
Explain for us, so slow to believe,
the things that Scripture says of you.
Break the bread of the Eucharist with us
whenever we share our lives
with our brothers and sisters.
Stay with us
each time night approaches
and the daylight fades in our hearts!

—From *Come, Lord Jesus* by Lucien Deiss, CSSp, copyright © 1976, 1981,
Lucien Deiss. Published by World Library Publications. p.168

Message From Fr. Bala and the Finance Council

Dear Parishioners,

With the unprecedented changes that have occurred in our lives the past few weeks, our spiritual needs have become more difficult to meet. Masses and other public services as you know are cancelled. Except for some donations through our online account and mail, our parish is deprived of regular offertory collections.

But, the utility and other expenses continue nonetheless. We have taken action to reduce costs. We are aware too that all of us are hurting right now as a result of the Coronavirus. Yet, we would like to appeal for your generous financial support. You may send your donations through our [online account](#) or by way of checks to the parish office: St. Philip's Church, P.O.Box 339, Occidental, CA 95465.

Thanking you in advance,
Father Bala & Finance Council

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for APRIL 2020

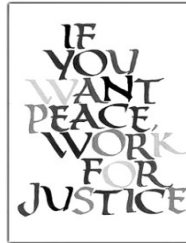
One could hear the expressions of appreciation among recipient families and volunteers as we conducted our first COVID19 drive through food distribution on April 14 in the St Philip Church parking lot. Donning masks and gloves to protect the safety of all, volunteers welcomed 112 families (23 first time at our distribution): 135 adults, 40 children, and 37 seniors for a total of 112 people. We will maintain our use of social distancing, hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks as indicated for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers.

Your used, clean, egg cartons and handled grocery bags are needed until we reach our goal of having only reusable cloth bags by the end of 2020. Thanks for dropping them off in the hall.

Thank you for your donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our distributions.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Saturday, May 9**, from 9:00 --10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
- Monday, May 11**, from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall
- Tuesday, May 12**, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and assist clients.



**Sixth Theme of Catholic Social Teaching:
CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION**

We show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

Tradition

A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. . . . Everything is connected. Concern for the environment thus needs to be joined to a sincere love for our fellow human beings and an unwavering commitment to resolving the problems of society. (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* [[Laudato Si'](#) . . .], nos. 49, 91)

The notion of the common good also extends to future generations. The global economic crises have made painfully obvious the detrimental effects of disregarding our common destiny, which cannot exclude those who come after us. We can no longer speak of sustainable development apart from intergenerational solidarity. Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us. (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home* [[Laudato Si'](#) . . .], no. 159)

We human beings are not only the beneficiaries but also the stewards of other creatures. Thanks to our bodies, God has joined us so closely to the world around us that we can feel the desertification of the soil almost as a physical ailment, and the extinction of a species as a painful disfigurement. Let us not leave in our wake a swath of destruction and death which will affect our own lives and those of future generations. (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* [[Evangelii Gaudium](#) . . .], no. 215)

*The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. . . Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others. It would be wrong to uphold one set of duties while trampling on the other. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth* [[Caritas in Veritate](#)] . . . , nos. 48, 51) [to be continued]*

Next week: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION, Part 2



<http://www.mariansisters.com/request-a-prayer.html>

Many say we learn from experience and thus acquire the skills to make it from day to day; others say true experience amounts to a shattering of our expectations, whereby we learn to expect the unexpected.

Today's Gospel reading about the two depressed disciples unwittingly meeting up with the risen Jesus on the road to Emmaus presents us with so beautiful and suspenseful a narrative that we almost feel we actually share their surprise when Jesus – in breaking the bread – reveals he is more alive than ever. I mean the text hardly needs a homilist because it is simply eloquent, so engaging or experiential as it is.

So maybe this year it's time to revert to the first reading for this Sunday – taken from *The Acts of the Apostles* - wherein Peter, no longer afraid to identify with Jesus, delivers his Pentecost discourse to a crowd of pilgrims in Jerusalem. In it he quotes Psalm 16 of the Hebrew Testament. The part he quotes might describe the status of those two disciples – after that experience in Emmaus. They might want to declare along with the Psalmist that forever after that evening meal:

I saw the Lord ever before me, / with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. / Therefore my heart has been glad and my tongue has exulted; / my flesh, too, will dwell in hope, / because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, / nor will you suffer your holy one to see corruption. / You have made known to me the paths of life; / you will fill me with joy in your presence.

That's the effect these resurrection narratives are intended to have upon us – to convince us beyond any scientific evidence that there is more to life than the everydayness we endure. There are experiences that arrive from beyond the limits of that collective

forgetfulness by which we devalue our existence, our true destiny.

Twenty-seven years ago on April 28th my younger son died, age 23. I never had had such an experience. Like the disciples in today's Gospel I mourned, discussed, lost sleep over the vacancy left by what people called the "love of my life". Of course no Jesus appeared to explain things to me but Lewis Carroll did by way of his Lobster Quadrille in his Wonderland story. In it Alice meets a Mock Turtle along the seashore who introduces her to a dance performed by whittings, seals, turtles . . . but not a snail! It goes:

"See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance! They are waiting on the shingle—will you come and join the dance? Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?" . . . / "You can really have no notion how delightful it will be When they take us up and throw us, with the lobsters, out to sea!" But the snail replied, "Too far, too far!" and gave a look askance — Said he thanked the whiting kindly, but he would not join the dance. / "What matters it how far we go?" his scaly friend replied. "There is another shore, you know, upon the other side. The further off from England the nearer is to France. Then turn not pale, beloved snail, but come and join the dance."

My reaction to that manner of Christ's arriving beside me in my sorrow? Tears of course but also a spontaneous address made to my son: *See you in France, Phil!*

--Geoff Wood, 4/26/2020

