

AMOR ET MISERICORDIA DEI

Prayer Group

Sunday, 28th April 2013, from 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Sharing - Teaching

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Let us rejoice and be glad as the LORD JESUS has RISEN! Alleluia! It is through His Resurrection He has wiped out all our sins, that is, if you believe that JESUS is your SAVIOUR! Amen!

The LORD inspired me on Thursday, 4th April 2013 to address His people about "His Resurrection." Therefore, today, I would like to give a talk about the LORD JESUS' Resurrection. In this talk, I will draw your attention to three main aspects about the LORD JESUS Resurrection: one, He is our Saviour, two, He is our Hope and Security, and three He is our Peace.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, every year we celebrate the solemn feast of the LORD Jesus' resurrection, which is called Easter. What does this celebration mean to you?

(Responses are open to the floor...)

Let us now take the first aspect of Jesus' Resurrection: He is our Saviour. The LORD has risen, that is the very Good News! I believe, for Christians and for those who believe Jesus is the Son of the Living God, Easter is a joyous ever celebration! Jesus was condemned to death and on the third day he rose, and after 40 days with his disciples, he ascended into heaven and He is seated on the right hand of His Father. This is what we catholic profess prayer called "the Creed" at Holy Mass; I had given a teaching about the Creed at last month's prayer meeting. You could find it from our website. My faith speaks about the joy of Jesus' Resurrection, because He becomes my (and your) Saviour now and forever...if you believe it!? Do you believe it? Brothers and sisters, I would not be standing here preaching, if Jesus' resurrection was not true! As the Scripture says, in 1 Corinthians 15:14, '*...if Christ has not been raised from death, then we have nothing to preach and you have nothing to believe.*' Jesus Christ is our LORD; He is our elder brother...His resurrection has to be fulfilled so that all of us can have Salvation through Him. For this reason, God, who is our Creator is indeed the God of LOVE and MERCY! What can we see that He is a loving merciful God? He comes to the world through His Son, to save us, and the whole humanity! He came down from Heaven to Earth, in the image of humble, poor and loving and merciful person (of Jesus)...until He was crucified on the Cross, out of His love for us all! His Body and Blood are our redemption, from our sins! If you say God did not love us, then why did He go through all the hazardous Passion with one objective is to save us? Could you imagine how much God loves us? Today, God is with us...He is the God of the Living...If we lives in Him, He will adopt us and treat us to be His 'precious' sons and daughters. Therefore, if you believe, Jesus' resurrection is to save you from the snares of your sins, then your faith help you to see the Truth...and the Truth will set you free from condemnation. You no longer feel sad or worried or burdensome of so many worldly problems! But, JESUS who is our Saviour, comes to save you and He will get rid of your entire burden and give you life, life in full! It is you...you who will choose...: are you going to choose to believe Jesus as your Saviour, or are

you going to choose your own 'self', that is by believing your 'self,' capable to do everything! Of course, I must admit, many Christians say that God's way is a SO difficult path, and thus many decide not to follow Christ, but follow the world which they find easy...For me, on the contrary, God's way is perfect and the most consoling way though it is hard. Despite such hardship, God is always on my (and your) side, and protects me (and you) from any 'danger' or trials. The Scripture says, in Matthew 7:14 *'Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy, and there are many who travel it. But the gate of Life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it.'* Do you understand what this parable addresses? Does anyone know? *(Open to the floor...)* Brothers and sisters, realise that there is no easy way to follow Christ, but it does not hamper us from following Him, do we? Why it is hard to follow Christ? Simply because we are VERY 'poor': we do not love enough, but we critique more...that's human's way and human's heart. God's heart is always FULL of LOVE, MERCY and PEACE. Therefore, Christ's resurrection gives us HOPE to live now and always. We have to seek God's way every day in our sincere prayer in silence...Ask God for such grace that He will change your heart to a new one!

God has called us to pray a lot! Why? Because if we do not spend more time in the prayer...We may become weak to resist temptations, and we will not know God's way, His will. We have to ask God for the grace of humility for we are nothing! Prayer gives us faith, hope and love, and it gives us the light to see God's way, and the strength to overcome the enemy inside us! Prayer can make us see the beauty of being humble, for having humility; humility breaks off the power of Satan! Therefore, God's advice to pray a lot, which is GOOD ADVICE! Isn't it? It is also hard to believe the Truth of God's resurrection because people are egoist - inside there are stubborn hearts - such hearts of men do not want to obey God! Fine...So when we have problems, why do we condemn God? We should change our way of lives...and be converted! God gives us Jesus Christ as our Saviour - what a wonderful gift! Isn't it? Perhaps, you could see how much God want to save us when your life has no way to go to...Well, brothers and sisters, God is always good - He is the only one who is good. He is the only one who is faithful. Thus trust Him. God waits for you to come back to Him...My question is, are you ready to follow Jesus Christ? If you respond "Yes" today, Jesus will come to save you and transforms your life in full! If you respond, "No", Jesus does not abandon you but He waits patiently that you return to him (when you have no way to go)...He is near you. Jesus always wants to give us "Life."The Life anew every day...but it is the egoist inside us that rejects His invitation to Life. So be aware of God presence, but also be aware of the evilness inside us - we have to call Jesus to help get rid of our evilness, our impurity, our egoists, and ask Jesus to purify us with His Body and Blood. He died on the cross and resurrected; His resurrection gives us "Great Meaning" to live! Brothers and sisters, I reiterate, are you ready to follow Jesus Christ? Do believe His resurrection is to save you? Respond it to God...in your individual silent prayer. God loves you, and He never ever wants to abandon you. So get ready your heart, and give to him all, no matter how sinful you are... Come back to Him, so that you will have a life (with Him) in full, as He has promised! Yes! Jesus has risen and is with us now... He has promised to save us now and always, hence do not be afraid. In Roman 8:31. 38, the Scripture says, *'If God is for us, who can be against us? Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave us his Son - will he not also freely give us all things?...For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His Love...there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our LORD.'* And in 2 Timothy 4:18, the Scripture says, *'...the LORD will rescue me from evil and take me safely into heavenly Kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever! Amen.'*

I shall now go on to the second aspect of Jesus' resurrection, that is, He is our Hope. Hope is one of the Catholics' prayers called the Act of Hope. This is how the prayer stated:

My God, I hope in You for grace and for heaven,
because of Your promises,
Your Mercy and Your power.

(Source: Novena in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, M. Olcomendy, D.D. Archbishop of Singapore, 28th Sept. 1973)

This prayer reminds us that God is the source of all HOPE. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the greatest hope of mankind to obtain Salvation. The Salvation is God's promise to humanity from the outset of creation, of man and woman, those of Adam and Eve. Hope is the gift to us from God's grace; when we pray sincerely for it, we will have it as God loves us, and his power will protect us from all darkness. Therefore, do not worry but hope in God! Jesus is risen and He gives us hope to live despite all the problems in front of us...If you surrender your burden to Him, He will take it away and gives you hope to sustain your situation: you may therefore feel enlighten despite there is pain, you feel secure in Jesus' heart. Heart of Jesus is full of LOVE and MERCY...and it is the only "safe haven," our refuge and our hiding place. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says, *'Come to Me, all of you who are tired from carrying loads, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke and put it on you, and learn from Me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit; and you will find rest. For the yoke I will give you is easy, and the load I will put on you is light.'* The Scripture tells us that if we hope in God, he will do the rest. The question is: are you ready to surrender your 'self' to God?

Now, let us take the reading from 1 Peter 1:3-5, and can I have somebody to read it out?

'Let us give thanks to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of His great mercy he gave us new life by raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a Living Hope, and so we look forward to possessing the rich blessings that God keeps for His people. He keeps them for you in heaven, where they cannot decay or spoil or fade away. They are for you, who through faith are kept safe by God's power for the salvation which is ready to be revealed at the end of time.'

What does this Scripture tells us here?

First of all, if you re-read carefully again, you may find that the Word of God in this Scripture addresses the prayer which I read out from the outset: here is the prayer of the "Act of Hope,"

My God, I hope in You for grace and for heaven,
because of Your promises,
Your Mercy and Your power.

What would you think? Do you have anything to comment on? (...)

For me, the Scripture does tell us that God is indeed merciful; if He is not, why then He gave us His Son as a ransom of many - simply to save us. Would you like to give your son or daughter to be slaughter in order to save people's life? We always say "No, of course not!" We are not able...so poor, we are, so incapable we are, nothing we are...but God is capable and all is possible in Him. How great is our God! Alleluia! Therefore, *let us give thanks to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Because of His great mercy he gave us new life by*

raising Jesus Christ from death. This fills us with a Living Hope. However, how many people would understand of such God's plan of Salvation? Brothers and sisters, open your eyes now to the Truth, wake up! Seek the truth, and the truth will set you free! (John 8:32) Amen!

The next and final aspect of Jesus' resurrection is He is our Peace. After Jesus' resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples - they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, but Jesus came and stood among them, in John 20:19-21, Jesus said to them, "*Peace be with you.*" Later Jesus showed them His hands and His side, hence they were filled with joy! Later, Jesus said to them again, "*Peace be with you. As the Father sent Me, so I send you.*"

Given the Scripture, it is clear Jesus' resurrection is to bring not only great joy, but He brings us the Peace in times of troubles, of fear, of doubt, etc...The LORD Jesus is our Peace! You could imagine that without Jesus' resurrection, our lives can be more and more difficult, as there will be no sense of love and mercy, no penance and definitely no peace. You may say that, "All right, then why there is no peace in the world now - many wars in the Middle East, chaotic situation in many countries due to economic down turn, corruptions, etc, etc...? First, I would like to question you... Who do you blame for such non-peaceful situations - God or humanity? (*Responses are open to the floor...*)

For me, it is obvious that God does not want us to have such non-peaceful situation as He is love and Mercy by nature, and the Scriptures have much to say about how to live a better life. However, it is humanity's egoist, pride, selfishness, cruelty, and all sorts of human's filthiness are to be blamed, the evilness inside the heart of men! All these block the grace from God from helping humanity to have peace. Humanity should change their way of living - return to God and REPENT! If not, without the grace of God, man cannot have the risen LORD in them, and there is no peace! Man must live according to God's will so that to have eternal life and peace! Jesus says in the Scripture, Matthew 4:4, "*Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks.*" Therefore, if we and the world no longer interested to listen to God's Word and His Commandment of LOVE, it is hardly to create peace in our heart and soul; the Word of God is the food for our soul, and it is the source to help us to do and to think what is good.

Jesus appeared to His disciples with the consoling Word, "PEACE be with you." In fact, this Word is said to us by God very often, when we have problems. God is a person who cares for you and me, and He wants us to have peace. He is indeed risen and brings us Peace. If we are aware of God's presence in us...we may have such Peace in our heart, for instance, after going to confession or after having a long silence prayer...God speaks to each one of us but do you aware of His presence? Pray a lot, and ask God for the grace to discern Him, and to love Him more!

We all should be glad and rejoice, as the resurrection of Jesus Christ has promised us and all humanity "Salvation;" He gives us a strong "Hope"; and He gives us an unending "Peace." Praise be to God for His goodness for us all! May His name be glorified and praised throughout the world. Amen!