

Fifth Sunday of Eastertide

TRUST IN ME, says the LORD

"Do not let your hearts be troubled" says Our Lord. In other words, do not worry and do not be overwhelmed with the problems and issues that can plague our hearts. All that God asks of us is that: "We trust in Him." Children trust in their parents in an unwitting manner without regard for tomorrow. We are God's children and therefore we are likewise called to place our trust in Him regarding our health, our financial matters and our future. To do so, however, we NEED to pray and that is our problem, we do not pray as often or as well as we should. So rather than trust in God we end up placing our trust in others or things that do not fill the void in our hearts. Hence we remain empty and troubled. So pray, hope and don't worry!

CHRIST IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE which means:

- 1) WAY = Hope - we trust more
- 2) TRUTH = Faith - we believe more
- 3) LIFE = Charity - we love more

What a perfect Scripture verse to contemplate as we note Mother's Day. That day also happens to be occurring on the same weekend we mark a special anniversary for our Blessed Mother: the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the Fatima apparitions. Motherhood, and in particular the spiritual motherhood of the Blessed Mother, is pure, lovely, admirable, and excellent.

Given the horrid state of our culture, and the world in general, it can be sometimes challenging, and let's face it almost seemingly next to impossible, to think about the good in the world when evil seems to be dominating. The attacks on the Church, the sacredness of life, family, and marriage, are constant. During our everyday conversations with God we share how our hearts are breaking with this worry and fear. We ask for Mary's intercession and protection over our children and others we hold dear. We ask what's next? What else could the Culture of Death and the other dark forces throw our way? And we wonder where and when it will all end? These are all natural concerns and questions, but sometimes if we aren't careful we can give in to discouragement and forget that, as I like to say, the light still shines in the darkness, and God is still very large and very much in charge.

Jesus asked Philip: "Have I been with you all this time and you still do not know me?" He is asking us the same question: "Have I been with you all this time – in the Mass, in the Sacraments, in the Bible – and you still do not know me?"

Beautiful quote from the 15th century theologian Denis the Carthusian; a quote that is even more timely today than when the teacher walked the earth some 600 years ago.

"Too much contemplation on lofty and difficult things, too much speculation on divine intellectual matters, could break or weary the mind. And so I suggest that the believer should occasionally give himself the joy of conversing sweetly and very lovingly with the Virgin Mother and her adorable child. For just as love made them closer to each other, and more like each other, so may our Lady's love do for us."

This does not mean that we care any less about the many problems of the today's troubled world; problems that impact all of us. This doesn't mean we put aside the powerful messages of Our Lady

of Fatima who told the children to continually pray the Rosary for world peace. It just means that we are not giving into a spirit of fear. It means we recognize that God is God and we are not. And that we understand in addition to giving the soon to be saints Francisco and Jacinta Marto, visions of the horrible fallout of sin, the Blessed Mother also offered them much comfort and love.

We know well from Scripture and our Marian theology how often the Blessed Mother “pondered” much beauty and awe in her own heart during her days on earth as she watched her Son grow, preach, and teach. Let us then ask her, our heavenly Mother to protect and assist our own mothers whom we owe so much for all that they have done for us throughout their lives. Be they living – make sure you contact them today – or dead – let us pray for them in this Mass – to thank them for the gift of their lives for us.

Happy Mother’s Day. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!