

Sisters and Brothers, may God never abandon us!

04/13/2025

Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting is **TODAY** at 3pm. Children and Youth ministries plan to meet.
- PLEASE continue prayers for our special Community intention, especially Tuesday at 10am.
- The Community will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena from April 18th-26th together this year. A copy of the Novena is attached and will be available in the foyer of the gym today.
- *Please note that we will change the pattern in May and meet on the 1st (5/4) and 3rd (5/18) Sundays to allow everyone to spend more time with their families on Mother's Day.*
- GodsDelight.org has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#), or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

Reflection

As we relive the Passion of our Lord today, it is obvious why the Church takes the time to read through the entire narrative. The words of the Passion are hard to ignore. I find myself all knotted up inside. This also explains why movies retelling the story are so hard for me to watch. I offer the suggestion that this year we go out of our way to fully engage with the narrative.

When I was a young adult, I had the privilege of accompanying Fr. John Bertolucci to Rome to celebrate Holy Week while he and others from the Community were filming. Fr. John invited me to pray the office with him throughout the Triduum. It was one of my early experiences of more fully engaging with the life of Jesus. To bring this home, Laurie and I would read the Passion narrative to our children spaced out throughout Holy Week to engage the children in the story.

This is my exhortation to all of us this Easter. Let us not go through the motions and events of this week on autopilot. Let us try to really enter into the events of our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection asking the Holy Spirit to capture our hearts and reveal the special personal mystery that He has for us.

Exactly how to 'enter in' will vary depending on our state in life but let's take some time today to ask the Holy Spirit to show us how we can more fully engage in Holy Week this year. Maybe attending more of the services, maybe committing extra

time to reading the passion, maybe taking time to meditate and contemplate the passion (recall this is via slow prayerful reading, placing ourselves in the scene and then a time of quiet-asking the Holy Spirit to speak to us), maybe reading and praying the relevant daily passages with our spouse and children and discussing what it would have been like to be a firsthand witness.

Regardless of how we individually discern how to respond to this challenge, let us each commit ourselves to look beyond the hustle and bustle of the week and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the special, personal message that He has for us. Let us attempt to ignore the commercialization of Easter that is thrust upon us by the world and never forget the reason for the season.

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, I am so very grateful for the love You showed me in offering Your beloved Son for my redemption. I repent of all that I have ever done that has offended You. Jesus, Your example of total and complete love will forever be a mystery for me to understand. Thank You for not only totally giving Yourself to restore my relationship but for the example You set in showing me the way to eternal life. Holy Spirit, I ask that You come upon me in a special way today and fill me with all the gifts and graces that I need to fully embrace Holy Week. Allow this to be a life-changing week. Reveal to me the Father's love for me! Allow me to experience a taste of Jesus' love for me! Allow me to be forever changed and better able, through an outpouring of Your gifts, to respond to the special and personal calling that You have placed on my life! Amen."

God Bless,
David