

Sunday April 24, 2022

Mary Mertzlufft

Our Scripture readings are always rich with symbols. After Easter they are particularly inspiring. We find St. Paul describing the great numbers of sick being carried out into the streets, lying on coats hoping that even St. Peter's shadow might fall on them. . . "Large numbers of the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits ...were all cured." We want to be in that number! We want the dark spirits we experience to be gone as we too depend on the Risen Jesus. Our darkness is seen in the Ukraine horrors; worse yet, one fourth of our world is at war!

In Revelations we hear: "He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid." - the most repeated phrase in all of Scripture. Those four little words carry us through life's storms. We sing, whisper and hold them in our minds and hearts, "Do not be afraid."

Today's Gospel relates how the disciples managed with all that was happening around them. They were much like us...locked in a room for fear of the (Jews, the economy...crime etc.) Jesus

shows them the wounds and proclaims "Peace be with you." He breathes on them, sending the Holy Spirit and at once they are fearless. Later he asks Thomas to put his finger and hand in his wounds so he might believe. We receive the same invitation. His wounds proclaim his deep love for us in spite of our doubts. His wounds show how far His love goes. He is with us every day and throughout each difficult night. We become fearless and are "not afraid".



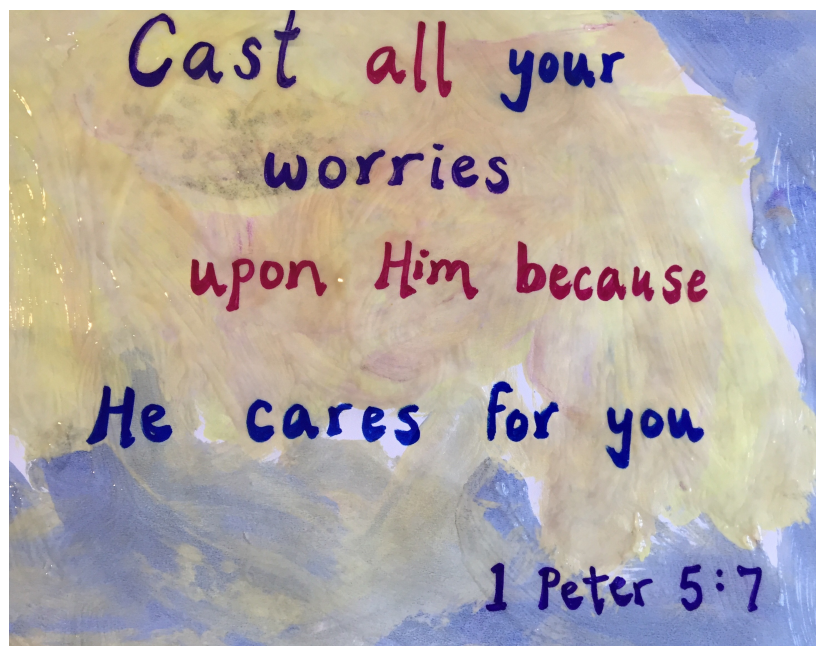
St. Pius V
COMMUNITY EASTER REFLECTIONS

APRIL 24-30, 2022



Monday, April 25, 2022
Mary Loux

In today's first reading, Peter says, "Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you."
What are you worried about right now? I frequently worry about the health of my family and how I will be able to take care of four young children as we expect our new little arrival (baby girl) to come soon. It is not difficult to find something to worry about—money, food, health, etc. May we remember to cast our worries upon God because He cares for us. Before Peter gives this instruction, he says to 'clothe yourselves with humility'.



I find that so much of my worrying occurs because I am not in control. I can't do everything, but God can. God will strengthen us if we can be humble and allow Him to work through us and let go of control.

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Marie Andrews



Today's readings bring us two different images of discipleship. Nicodemus who came to Jesus at night, who didn't quite understand what Jesus was saying and a group of early Christians who laid their wealth at the feet of the apostles, so no one would go without. One who came to Jesus in secret and those who boldly publicly Christ acting on their faith. Jesus says the wind blows where it will and likewise the Spirit. During this tornado season we are familiar with the wind but what about the Spirit. The sirens call us to move to a safe space to avoid the winds. Are we likewise trying to hide from the

Spirit? What keeps us from laying our riches at the feet of the apostles?

I know I thought about money less when I was younger. Even though we lived under the poverty line when our daughter was an infant. We were without a home but people took us into theirs. Our white privilege assured us we would not do without. When we finally had a decent income we began to accumulate things. They take time and energy to maintain, causing their own amount of stress. Where is the balance, believing and acting in charity? Is balance even what I ought to be striving to attain. Listening to the Spirit and following her call, will likely not look balanced. At times it will be like being in a tornado, powerful winds carrying us in our mission to follow Christ. At other times it will be a cooling summer breeze, enjoying the refreshment of resting in God's arms. And there will be those hot dry desert days when I'm not sure why I am on this path. Let us pray whatever the weather conditions we may remember God's overflowing love in creating us and have the grace to share it with the least among us.

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Sr. Helena Monahan

Today's readings challenge me and all Christians to step out into the light and speak God's words, without fear, to a very troubled world.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles relates the story of the arrest and imprisonment of Peter and Jesus's disciples at the hands of the jealous Sadducees. How terrifying that must have been for the Apostles! The image of Jesus dragged through the streets and crucified was still etched in their minds.

Soon after, an angel of the Lord led them out of prison, only to send them back to their place in the temple area where they were told to "tell the people everything about this life." Being human, the apostles must have wanted to flee or do anything other than return to the public arena and continue preaching. In their faith, however, they did as the angel asked. They went to the temple and told the people about the life that belief in Jesus promises.

The Gospel proclaims the beautiful message the Apostles preached: "God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." John asserts that God did not send Jesus to "condemn the world," but that "the world might be saved through him." It is difficult for me sometimes not to condemn our world in the light of current war, pandemic, and apparent evil. But the psalmist assures us today that

*"When the poor one called out, the Lord heard,
And from all his distress he saved him."*

Let us call out in profound faith, truly believing that God has already redeemed our world and is waiting to offer mercy, forgiveness, and eternal life to each of us poor ones who believe.

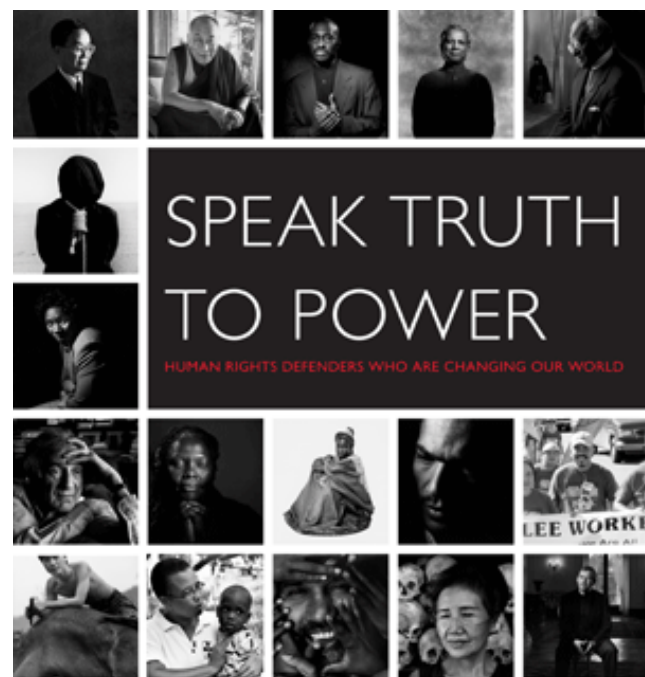


Thursday, April 28, 2022

Justin Stein

It is powerful to imagine the apostles at the beginning, shortly after Jesus's resurrection, starting to proclaim the Good News as the Spirit led them. They were doing their best to obey God and not man. Because of their actions, the apostles were brought before the Jewish authorities. They did not back down, but remained steadfast in their words and deeds. Peter says, "We must obey God rather than man." Peter and the apostles are speaking Truth to power! This passage makes me think about the fear and courage, and the sacrifice and joy the apostles must have experienced at this time. I'm also made aware of the power of the Holy Spirit, who emboldened humble men and women to speak the Truth. I am grateful for the people of the early Church who, though faced with condemnation and threats and even death, spread the Good News.

"We must obey God and not man." Peter's words still hold true for us today, but it's sometimes hard to know if we are hearing God's voice, or a false voice. I pray for the ability to recognize God's voice, and that the Spirit gives me the courage to respond.



St. Catherine of Sienna
Friday, April 29, 2022
Michael Stephan

The apostles were brought into court to face their offense of teaching about Jesus. They were eventually let go and told to stop their teaching. They did not stop.

Today we honor St. Catherine of Siena on her feast day. She died in 1380 at the age of 33 due to her exhaustive fasting. She is one of the most influential and popular saints. She said, 'Speak Truth to Power'. This is exactly what the apostles continued to do after their release. They continued to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Christ because they knew that the truth would reign supreme.

While in Siena several years ago I saw the uncorrupted head of St. Catherine at the Basilica of San Domenico. I remember thinking why is there a head on exhibition and this seems odd and a bit offensive. I thought that St Catherine must have had many followers and supporters and her people just wanted a part of her after she died. It was quite powerful/spiritual and made me want to know more about this special woman that devoted her life to Christ and in her time period to have had such influence in politics and world history.

Let us try to be like the apostles and St. Catherine and speak the truth in order to make a difference in our troubled world.

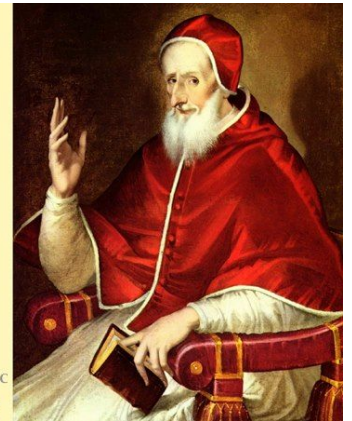


St. Pius V
Saturday, April 30, 2022
Alice Roche

Today I reflect on my life for the last 39 years. On April 30, 1983, I married the love of my life. We have been happy and supportive of each other. We have had our ups and downs, but the love we have for each other has grown over the years. We know that we can count on each other in good times and bad, and can share the load in not-so-good times. We have learned that communication is SO important, and can compromise on things we don't always agree on.

ST. PIUS V, POPE :: APRIL 30

"Father, You chose Saint Pius V as pope of Your Church to protect the faith and give You more fitting worship. By his prayers, help us to celebrate Your holy mysteries with a living faith and an effective love. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."



We are called to be stewards of God. We should always strive to help others. We should not judge others, because we do not know what they are going through. The only judge that we should have is God. He will let us know what to do in all circumstances.

Please join us in writing a reflection.
Simply contact Marie Andrews at 314-441-8005 or
alleluiagirl@yahoo.com
You can also find available dates at
<https://signup.com/go/fZaAxRi>