



Talktime with Sr. J

Fifth Sunday of Lent
John 11:1-45

April 2, 2017

Dear Friend,

If we look up the meaning of the word *Bethany* we will discover that it means 'house of song, and/or the house of affliction' and the name *Lazarus* means God is my help. Jesus heard the news of Lazarus' illness and delayed his going to him. Jesus loved Lazarus; He loves us, too. He waited before going to him. Jesus allows us to wait until it is the right moment for us to accept Him.

Jesus was disturbed and wept. Jesus called Lazarus out from the tomb. He said: "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus was wrapped in burial cloths, yet came out of the tomb upon hearing the voice of Jesus.

Lazarus represents us. We are ill and suffering and bound in sin. There are times we do not know what we are to do; we feel trapped and in bondage, burdened with our poor choices

If we turn to Jesus and call on Him to help us He will be there to break us free from the bonds of spiritual death with the sacrament of Reconciliation and move into the gift of eternal life. We need to believe and live as though we do believe.

We will never be forced by God to do his will. We need to freely make the choice. As we approach Holy Week let us give ourselves to the One who loves us unconditionally.

Peace,
Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Passion of the Lord
Matthew 26:14-27:66

April 9, 2017

Dear Friend,

Reflectively reading and listening to the Gospel for today the question comes to mind: How do we cope, how can we cope, with betrayals, disappointments, deceptions in our lives? More than likely we too often fall short with our response.

Jesus entered this passion with an open heart willing to fulfill His Father's Will. We were incapable of saving ourselves and so Jesus took on this mission. He had to have entered this ordeal with an open heart filled with love. Because His heart was freely given for our salvation all He experienced had to have been intensely felt. Jesus refused the drugged wine because He knew that his sufferings would save us. He was set on bearing the pain in all its bitterness.

The intensity of Jesus' pain also speaks to us of His great love for us. It is also a story and reality that challenges us to imitate that same intensity of love and mercy that we witness throughout this week in Scripture.

We are challenged to forgive and extend mercy to those who have hurt us, betrayed us, and/or disappointed us, our trusted friends and family members. Jesus knew what Judas and Peter would do. He did not deny the hurt. He did not pretend it did not happen. Yet He did not hold it against them either. Jesus has shown us the way to handle pain in our lives. We are blessed with our Master Teacher. Let us pray to have the courage to respond with love and mercy.

Peace,
Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Easter Sunday

John 20:1-9

April 16, 2017

Dear Friend,

Today we realize that once again we need to accept that our faith is wrapped around mystery. Mary Magdalene showed up at Jesus' tomb while it was still dark, and was shocked and distressed to see the stone removed, and no body. She ran to tell Peter, and Peter and John ran to see for themselves, and saw nothing. We are told that John saw nothing and still did not understand the resurrection but he believed.

There is a lesson for us here and we need to ask ourselves "*how strong is our faith?*" Often, to believe in something we want proof. John did not ask for proof, yet he believed. So we need to reflect. To see does not lead to belief and neither does knowing lead us there. However, like John we need to make the choice to believe. He saw – empty tomb, cloths neatly folded, and heavy stone rolled away. Certainty was not a 100% fool-proof.

John observed, then, even with uncertainty he reasoned things out, and chose to believe. Without being completely sure he made the decision to believe. Would we have done the same, or would we have asked for more information so as to be certain? Our faith is based on God's truth revealed to us in Scripture, Tradition and Magisterium of the Church.

We need to know that the Resurrection reveals to us a silent and hidden God who prefers to leave us some room to doubt, wonder, question, decide, and choose to believe.

Peace,

Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Divine Mercy Sunday

John 20:19-31

April 23, 2017

Dear Friend,

The doors were locked, yet Jesus came and stood in the midst of the apostles and said: "Peace, be with you."

If we stop to think about it the apostles were imprisoned in their room. Because they were afraid they had themselves locked out of sight. It appears that they were unable to deal with all that had happened as well as all the gossip in town. There are times in our lives when we would like to hide in our homes or in the darkness of our lives, minds and hearts, or lock people out of our lives. When we do this we imprison ourselves.

Jesus is alive and his disciples are in hiding and very much afraid. It is so with us as well. The Resurrection gained for us our freedom and joy. All the Easter Sundays we have experienced ought to have made a difference in our lives. We cannot remain in the tomb or closed off from life because of anger, sorrow, loss, or buried resentment.

Just as the disciples did not invite Jesus into their locked room he came just the same because He knew what was in their hearts. Be ready! It is the Easter season and Jesus may well choose to break open the barred doors to our minds and hearts. He knows how to step into our lives and bring us longed for peace.

He left the tomb to bring us life and peace. Let us welcome Him into our lives!

Peace,

Sr. J.



Talktime with Sr. J

Third Sunday of Easter

Luke 24:13-35

April 30, 2017

Dear Friend,

Picture them walking away from Jerusalem sad, disillusioned, hopeless, and despairing. They had great hopes that they had found the Messiah and wonderful things would happen. Instead, He was crucified, and the rumor was out that the body had been stolen.

A stranger appeared and entered their conversation. As they walked and talked and neared their home they invited this stranger to eat with them. In the breaking of the bread their mind, heart and eyes were illumined and they knew it was Jesus. Immediately they headed right back to Jerusalem to tell the others.

We are the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Each of us at one time or another has had our dreams shattered and our hopes crushed. Then we choose to walk away from the gift of the cross. When we do not invite Jesus into our lives to help us through our pain we too are sad and disillusioned. We need to recall that it is in the Breaking of the Bread that brings life, strength, courage and peace. The Presence of Christ in our lives makes all the difference.

Jesus present in the Eucharist is capable of transforming us and our situations. Through the Eucharist we are renewed, hope is restored, faith is increased and joy once again floods our hearts. Now, we can refocus and continue the journey that God has marked out for us. Now, we can be the disciples of Emmaus in our world today who have the courage to return to Jerusalem.

Peace,

Sr. J

We recognize the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Christ is not just present but transforms us, renews us, recreates us just as he restored hope and joy once again in the disciples on the road to Emmaus.