

The Peace of the Lord

April 28, 2019

“Peace be to you.” John 20:19

The Apostles were in hiding after our Lord’s death and word of His resurrection did not take away their fear. The Apostles had abandoned our Lord and felt guilty for doing so and also feared the Jews and Pharisees. Our Lord, knowing their state of mind, reassures them by appearing to them and offering them His peace, a peace that cannot come from this world. The peace that comes from the knowledge of Christ and His victory over sin and death is a peace that can set us free, even in the worst trials. The paralyzing fear the Apostles felt was dissipated with our Lord’s presence and helped them to face the enemies and lead many souls to Christ.

If there is an enduring peace among men, it is because of the presence of God among them. This applies to our families also. If Christ is not a vital part of the family, then the family has to do battle on its own. Our Lord’s peace is the only peace worth sharing. It is a peace that resulted from having resolved the conflict—the enemy was utterly crushed; no issues were side stepped; He made no truce with the enemy. He conquered Satan in the temptations after the 40 days of fasting and He conquered the jeers of the enemy while on the Cross: “if you are God, come down now.” After dying and being buried, He rose again from the dead to conquer death forever.

Inner peace apart from God is impossible. Peace follows on unity, first with God, and then also with each other in God. Sin destroys this order, and so the sacrament of confession will play a vital role for inner peace as well as peace amongst ourselves. The importance of confession is evident after the resurrection when our Lord breathed on the Apostles and gave them the Holy Spirit telling them that whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven and whose sins you retain, they are retained. The importance of sacramental confession is further highlighted today, since it is Divine Mercy Sunday. Let us make regular use of this sacrament so Christ’s peace can reside in our soul and in our families.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP

Pastor, Regina Caeli Parish