

April 15, 2020
Wednesday in the Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1-10
Luke 24:13-35

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Fr. Brian's Reflection of today's readings
- Prayer & Challenge for the Day
- Pray the Divine Mercy Novena Day 6
- Watch the Word on Fire video:

St. Catherine of Siena – The Mystic

Easter Wednesday Reflection Acts 3:1-10 & Luke 24:13-35

Peter said, "I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk" (Acts 3:6).

A remarkable experience in this time of virus pandemic is how people want to help each other and try to creatively find ways to do anything to support each other amid the safety and health restrictions that are in place. We see a little showcase each day of such resourceful and creative methods and projects that Kentuckians undertake during our Governor's daily press conference. Such caring responses are wonderful fulfillments of the two great commands that Jesus taught us, to "Love God and Love Your Neighbor" (Matthew 22:37-39). How these commands of Jesus are fulfilled though, depends upon what opportunities a person has available. I can give or do only what I can. Jesus calls us to do our best at sacrificing for others in His Name. But we can only give what we have. Today's first reading from Acts of Apostles, has Peter and John going to the Temple to pray and they are asked by a crippled beggar at the door for charity help. But Peter and John don't have any money. I love how Peter responds. He basically says, "Friend, I don't have any gold or silver, but I freely share what I do have -in the name of Jesus be healed!" And the man is healed! What a gift, the man wasn't even asking for! A favorite saint of mine is the patron saint of parish priests: St John Vianney. Similar to Peter giving and sharing whatever he had, St John Vianney was a lowly and poor parish priest but always willing to give what he had (however large or mostly however small!). He lived so frugally, in a little parsonage shack, and once a wandering beggar came to his door asking for help. St John answered the door happily and proclaimed, 'I am poor like you, but I give you

what I am having for dinner; have one of my boiled potatoes with me!' He freely shared what little he had. Imitating his model, the poor St Francis Assisi, St. John liked to say, "As soon as I give everything away, the Lord will come for me", yet the more he gave away to the poor, the more his parishioners gave him alms for the poor.

This episode of Peter and John giving this crippled man asking for money, but giving his ability to walk back, teaches me that sometimes I probably ask something of God, and God says, "Is that all you want? I have so much more to give you!" That is a good meditation for us when we keep asking for something in prayer and we don't seem to receive it. It may be that God is waiting to place in our lap a gift so much more than we are asking for. But we have to be patient and open, to receive from Him. I also love how this healed man reacted. 'Forget about the money alms', he seems to say, "I want to run and dance now on these newly healed legs". Acts 3:8 says he went into the temple with Peter and John "***walking and jumping and praising God.***" He was exercising that newly received gift of standing upright again! And he was giving back to God all that he had now (remember as a crippled man he had no means of income). So, the healed man's gift back to the Temple and God was worship-songs of praise and jubilant prayers of thanksgiving. He was giving to God what he had—his voice and dance! In our time of virus social distancing, I know I have heard of so many gifts of people singing uplifting hymns and songs to each other. I have also heard how meaningful and life-saving that music and prayer has been for people as they were hospitalized sick with coronavirus. Or how song and prayer calmed their anxieties and brought them back breath and peace! Song, praise and prayer to God is a powerfully effective treatment alongside personal care and medical technology. So, let us give to God creatively whatever gift we may have!

Prayer for the Day:

6th Day of Divine Mercy Novena: Jesus says, bring to me meek and humble souls and souls of little children, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly innocents, who keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. Only the humble soul is capable of receiving My grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence. We pray: Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favored ones. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek souls, upon humble souls, and upon little children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son.

Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Challenge for the Day:

What is your favorite church hymn or old spiritual song? Why is it your favorite? What are the most comforting lines or phrases from its refrain or verses? Share it with someone today.

St. Catherine of Siena - The Mystic

St. Catherine of Siena exemplifies the power of a life lived in relationship with Jesus and provides an example of faith that changes the culture.

Catholicism Pivotal Players video: *St. Catherine of Siena - The Mystic*

The *St. Catherine of Siena: The Mystic* video will be on the Word on Fire website through St. Catherine's Feast Day on April 29th!