

## Sunday, April 26, 2020 Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Readings:

(1<sup>st</sup> Reading) Act of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33. (Responsorial Psalm) Psalm 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11

(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) 1Peter 1:17-29 (Gospel) Luke 24:13-35.

From the desk of Fr. Paulo...

My brothers and sisters in Christ, parishioners of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, I had begun the count-down to April 30<sup>th</sup> since last Sunday, hoping that Covid -19 lockdown will be eased if not lifted in Hawai'i, at least to some degree where there can be ways to again have our Sunday Mass - worship, even if we have to be distanced 6 feet apart and some dividers needed. It seems that it may not happen as the lockdown will be extended into the Month of May.

Though disheartening this maybe, we should not let our Faith be shaken and we should resolve more to live out our Faith, despite the absence and the lack of social support we had come to expect in the past when we were able to gather together as a church.

I may have shared with some of you in conversations that "I saw our parish church like a field hospital where we come in from the battles (spiritual, emotional & psychological), we fought in the world and find respite and renewal (healed) here - church. Then ready to return back and fight a good fight."

Our Holy Mass – worship as body of Christ the Church addressed what we deeply hunger in our souls. We needed to come together to pray, support and be here for each other, as we were nourished, strengthen and healed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Word of God and His Body.

Most of all in gathering as the body of Christ the church, we received supernatural graces when we encountered Jesus Christ, in person risen and present to us in ways we could not possess otherwise. True the Lord's Day is still sacred, yet it is in the absence and in our inability to gather in His Name that we realize the vital truth of the Holy Sacrifice of Mass and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Confessions- are essential and indispensable in our Catholic lives. "...Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4).

I admit that I truly missed the Sunday gatherings in Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as a parish ohana and I must admit too our fellowship breakfast hours that overflowed from our worship together.

I guess "those days" may never come again. Times have changed with the Covid -19 Pandemic.

It is like the 9-11 that forever changed the ways we travel in the airplanes. Nevertheless; we must keep the discipline of our Faith alive, as did so many of our brothers and sisters in persecuted lands have done and kept the Faith and many still do.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” (Hebrews 12:1).

### Month of May - Month of Mary:

The coming Month of May offers us abundance of spiritual wealth for us to remain close to Jesus Christ through Mary His Mother. The Rosary prayed in reflective meditation of the mysteries of the day, immerses us and takes us into the life of Jesus Christ. It is the Scripture unfolding through prayers with Mary to Jesus Christ.

In our parish we have always prayed the Rosary and crowned Mary on Mother’s Day by the First Holy Communion students in the past many years. This may not happen this year in the church but we need not be deprived to keep the beautiful tradition and devotion alive in our hearts and in our families – ohana throughout the Month of May.

I would like to invite you the parish families – ohana to pick a day in the Month of May to pray the Rosary as a family. I am creating a big rosary and making it like garland to adorn the Cross standing at the sanctuary.

Simply pick a day in the Month of May to pray the rosary as a family and doing so pray with the parish families-ohana.

If you are participating simply:

**Reply back: Family Name \_\_\_\_\_, Members \_\_\_\_\_ and the day you have chosen to pray the Rosary\_\_\_\_\_.**

[hawaiicapuchinfriars@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiicapuchinfriars@gmail.com) or [olmc001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:olmc001@hawaii.rr.com)

Your names will be placed on the big rosary beads adorning the Cross, something like what we did with the Easter Triduum Crosses on the Sacred Heart. By the way those Crosses will be laminated and return to you. We encourage you to put them on your door (interior-blessing the family).

There are 31 days in the Month of May, but May 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker\* and Rosary will be dedicated to all fathers who labor and on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> which is Mother’s Day, we will I will reserve as that day for all our mothers living and deceased.

Though I may still be alone at the masses, I will offer the mass in memory of all fathers who labor on the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker (Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>) and Sunday, May 10 for all

mothers: deceased Mothers + \_\_\_\_\_ and Living Mothers

\_\_\_\_\_.

Please discuss as a family and decide if you will participate and reply by Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

So that there will be sufficient time to prepare the Rosary.

- May 1<sup>st</sup> Feast of St. Joseph the Worker:

On May 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. Pope Pius XII established this feast day in 1955 to honor St. Joseph and celebrate catholic church's commitment to the dignity of labor.

In these times of recession with unemployment rising high we ask for St. Joseph's intercession and help from heaven to help us in our work or indeed to find good, productive work which will improve the society in which we live and give us a spirit of peace and joy.

- Pope Pius XII wrote a prayer for this great feast:

“Oh, glorious St. Joseph, model of all who are devoted to labor, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation of my many sins; to work conscientiously by placing love of duty above my inclinations; to gratefully and joyously deem it an honor to employ and to develop by labor the gifts I have received from God, to work methodically, peacefully and in moderation and patience, without ever shrinking from it through weariness or difficulty to work; above all, with purity of intention and unselfishness, having unceasingly before my eyes death and the account I have to render time lost, talents unused, good not done, and vain complacency in success so harmful to the work of God.

All for Jesus, all for Mary, all to imitate you, O Patriarch St. Joseph. This shall be my motto for life and eternity, Amen.”

More on the Feast and story of St. Joseph will follow...

Have a blessed week in the Lord!

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.