

May 9, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

YOUR GRIEF WILL BECOME JOY

By Sr. Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while later and you will see me." So some of his disciples said to one another, "What does this mean that he is saying to us, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" So they said, "What is this 'little while' of which he speaks? We do not know what he means." Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, "Are you discussing with one another what I said, 'A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me'? Amen, amen, I say to you, you will weep and mourn, while the world rejoices; you will grieve, but your grief will become joy."

JOHN 16:16-20

Reflection

The Gospel today is taken from Jesus' farewell discourse during the Last Supper. It gives us a glimpse into Jesus' love for his disciples: "You are not going to see me for a while..." He was pondering what was about to happen: they would be filled with sorrow and pain to see their Friend and Teacher tortured and killed in a disgraceful way. He could foresee their loss and bewilderment and he wanted to give them a word of hope that it would *only be for a while*: their grief would become joy. The disciples will see Jesus suffer and die, and yet, this pain will give way to joy in his rising from the grave and his living presence within them.



The Compassion of Jesus
Photo by Alicia Rodriguez

For Pondering

This Gospel has been chosen today because, in this diocese, the Ascension of the Lord will be observed on Sunday, May 12. In a sense, Jesus is going away again, but in an entirely different manner. The Ascension celebrates Jesus' coming home to his Father in glory and splendor, as the disciples await the gift of the Holy Spirit poured upon all of creation. May we all be blessed with everlasting joy in the self-emptying life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For Prayer

Taken from the Ignatian Litany of the Names of Jesus:

Jesus, Son of the Virgin, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our Creator and Lord, have mercy on us.

Jesus, eternal Lord of all things, have mercy on us.

Jesus, now in glory, have mercy on us.

Jesus, full of happiness and joy, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our consoler, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our peace, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our joy, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our hope, have mercy on us.

Jesus, our life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, your Father has placed us with you, have mercy on us.

Blessed be the name of Jesus, now and forever.

Amen.

Hearts on Fire: Praying with Jesuits.

Various names St. Ignatius used for Jesus in his writings.

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