

# Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

## WHO IS THE GOOD NEWS?

By Sr. Bernie Inocencio, CSJ

### Excerpts from Today's Readings

*"For if the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.*

*But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."*

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:16-20**

*I am just - let me see your face; when I awake, let me be filled with your presence.*

**PSALM 17:15**

*Jesus journeyed from one town and village to another, preaching and proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. Accompanying him were*

*the Twelve and some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, Susanna, and many others who provided for them out of their resources.*

**LUKE 8:1-3**

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## Reflection

The good news is Jesus himself, the first fruit of God's love. The good news is: Jesus came to save us, died for us, and was resurrected from the dead so we may have life eternal. He was the first fruit of God's love. We would have been stuck in unliving had Jesus not saved us and not proclaimed Love to us.

Isaiah 61:1-3 foretold Jesus, the Anointed Bearer of Glad Tidings. Jesus was:

To bring good news to the afflicted,  
To bind up the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners,  
To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

To comfort all who mourn.  
To place on those who mourn in Zion a diadem instead of ashes,  
To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.

The bearer of good news makes known to people God's enduring love, and the splendor of God's kin-dom. Good news strengthens faith, inspires hope, and nurtures love. Jesus is the Fullness of that Good News.

Now that Jesus is risen and is seated at the right hand of God the Father, who is the good news? What is the good news? How does the good news live on?

The good news now, in our world today, is nothing different from what Isaiah proclaimed in his writing. We are supposed to be the bearers of good news. We can be the good news.

Serving at the borders by welcoming immigrants is a way of bringing the good news to those driven out of their natural homes. Feeding people suffering from homelessness in soup kitchens, or helping collect non-perishable items for food pantries, are ways to bring good news to our unsheltered brothers and sisters. Spiritual direction, reflections and retreats are ways to lift spirits and give hope

to those who are suffering emotionally and spiritually. Sharing our stories, standing witness to God's presence in our lives, are ways of showing the light of God. Our way of being, our compassionate presence, is good news to this beautiful yet wounded world.

Another example of Good News is the Korean martyrs Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, Columba, Agnes, and their companions, whose martyrdom we are celebrating today. Theirs was the ultimate gift of good news. The narratives about these martyrs say that during the Japanese invasion of Korea in 1592, some Koreans were baptized by Christian Japanese soldiers and from them, the faith grew. Almost 200 years later, a Chinese Catholic priest came and found 4,000 Catholics who had never seen a Catholic priest before. (<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saints-andrew-kim-taegon-paul-chong-hasang-and-companions/>)

Is it not amazing that the Korean Church was strictly a lay Church for years after its birth? It was a “church of living faith before the true beneficial celebration of the Eucharist.” (<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saints-andrew-kim-taegon-paul-chong-hasang-and-companions/>) Faith was alive! The good news was alive even amidst chaos, suffering, and death.

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Smiling Jesus  
Designed by TheRigbyLot

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### For Pondering

- How do you proclaim the good news in your daily life? In this world pervaded with hatred, division, indifference, and war?
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### Closing Prayer

*My Lord, fill me with your love.  
Fill me with your truth!  
Fill me with your kindness.  
My Lord, let your goodness shine.  
Let me speak your truth!  
Let me be the bearer of your love!*

*Every day, let me proclaim and testify.  
In your word, show me your way for you are light. Amen.*

EXCERPTS FROM LYRICS OF LET ME BE THE BEARER OF YOUR LOVE, SONG BY  
BUKAS PALAD MUSIC MINISTRY  
FOR THE 2018 YEAR OF THE CLERGY AND CONSECRATED PERSONS

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