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for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal**

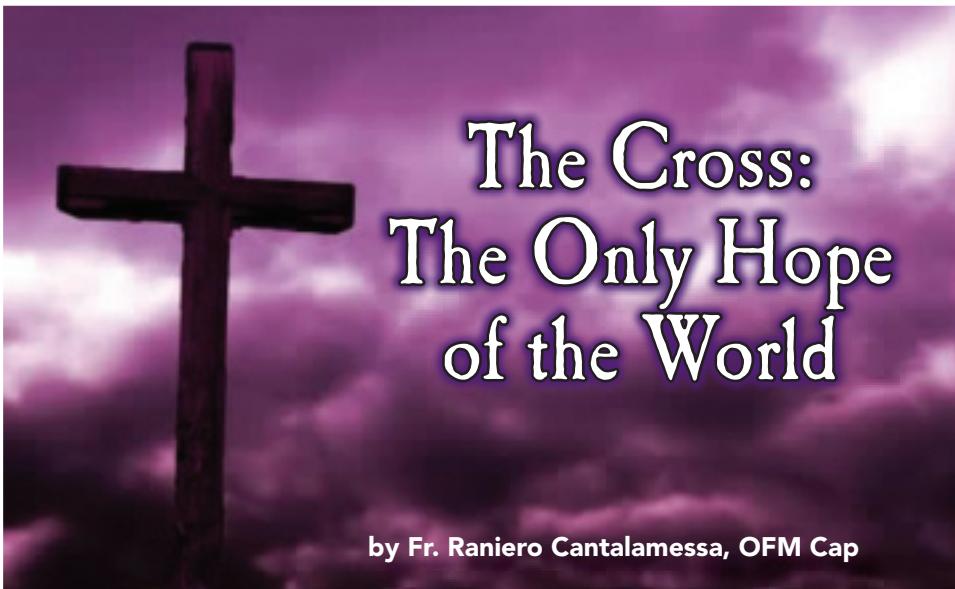
Volume 46
Number 2



SCRC
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities

March / April 2018



The Cross: The Only Hope of the World

by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap

On Good Friday, 2017, in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis presided over the celebration of the Lord's Passion. The homily was delivered by the Preacher of the Papal Household, Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, O.F.M. Cap. Here is the full text of the prepared homily:

We have listened to the story of the Passion of Christ. Apparently nothing more than the account of a violent death, and news of violent deaths are rarely missing in any evening news. Even in recent days there were many of them, including those of 38 Christian Copts in Egypt killed on Palm Sunday. These kinds of reports follow each other at such speed that we forget one day those of the day before. Why then are we here to recall the death of a man who lived 2000 years ago? The reason is that this death has changed forever the very face of death and given it a new meaning. Let us meditate for a while on it.

"When they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water" (Jn. 19:33-34). At the beginning of his ministry, in response to those who asked him by what authority he chased the merchants from the temple, Jesus answered, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (Jn. 2:19). John comments on this occasion, "he spoke of the temple of his body" (Jn. 2:21), and now the same Evangelist testifies that blood and water flowed from the side of this "destroyed" temple. It is a clear allusion to the prophecy in Ezekiel about a future temple of God, with water flowing from its side that was at first a stream

and then a navigable river, and every form of life flourished around it (see Ezek. 47:1).

But let us enter more deeply into the source of the "rivers of living water" (Jn. 7:38) coming from the pierced heart of Christ. In Revelation the same disciple whom Jesus loved writes, "Between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain" (Rev. 5:6). Slain, but standing, that is, pierced but resurrected and alive.

There exists now, within the Trinity and in the world, a human heart that beats not just metaphorically but physically. If Christ, in fact, has been raised from the dead, then his heart has also been raised from the dead; it is alive like the rest of his body, in a different dimension, even if it is mystical. If the Lamb is alive in heaven, "slain, but standing," then his heart shares in that same state; it is a heart that is pierced but living—eternally pierced, precisely because he lives eternally.

There has been a phrase created to describe the depths of evil that can accumulate in the heart of humanity: "the heart of darkness." After the sacrifice of Christ, more intense than the

The Cross continued on page 3



SCRC Spring Conference

*Fresh
Anointing
of the
Spirit*

Saturday, March 24, 2018

10:00am-5:30pm



Fr. Bill
Adams, CSsR
Following
Jesus Today



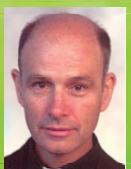
Maria
Velasquez, LMFT
Experiencing
God the Father's Love



Fr. Michael
Barry, SSCC
Palm Sunday Vigil Mass
and Healing Service



Kay
Murdy
Healing and
Wholeness



Fr. Bill
Delaney, SJ
Growing in the Life of the Spirit
(w/ Prayer for Baptism of Holy Spirit)

Santa Teresita • Madonna Hall • 819 Buena Vista St. • Duarte, CA

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All individuals whose pre-registrations are received by March 16, 2018 will be sent a schedule, tickets, detailed directions, parking info. and map of local restaurants.

Signature _____

Return completed registration
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SCRC Spring Conference
9795 Cabrini Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
spring@scrc.org

heart of darkness, a heart of light beats in the world. Christ, in fact, in ascending into heaven, did not abandon the earth, just as he did not abandon the Trinity in becoming incarnate.

An antiphon in the Liturgy of the Hours says, "the plan of the Father" is now fulfilled in "making Christ the heart of the world." This explains the unshakeable Christian optimism that led a medieval mystic to exclaim that it is to be expected that "there should be sin; but all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing [sic] shall be well" (Julian of Norwich).

The Carthusian monks have adopted a coat of arms that appears at the entrance to their monastery, in their official documents, and in other settings. It consists of a globe of the earth surmounted by a cross with writing around it that says, "Stat crux dum volvitur orbis" ("The Cross stands firm as the world turns").

What does the cross represent in being this fixed point, this mainmast in the undulation of the world? It is the definitive and irreversible "no" of God to violence, injustice, hate, lies—to all that we call "evil," and at the same it is equally the irreversible "yes" to love, truth, and goodness. "No" to sin, "yes" to the sinner. It is what Jesus practiced all his life and that he now definitively consecrates with his death.

The reason for this differentiation is clear: sinners are creatures of God and preserve their dignity, despite all their aberrations; that is not

the case for sin; it is a spurious reality that is added on, the result of one's passions and of the "the devil's envy" (Wis. 2:24). It is the same reason for which the Word, in becoming incarnate, assumed to himself everything human except for sin. The good thief to whom the dying Jesus promised paradise, is the living demonstration of all this. No one should give up hope; no one should say, like Cain, "My sin is too great to be forgiven" (see Gen. 4:13).

The cross, then, does not "stand" against the world but for the world: to give meaning to all the suffering that has been, that is, and that will be in human history. Jesus says to Nicodemus, "God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn. 3:17). The cross is the living proclamation that the final victory does not belong to the one who triumphs over others but to the one who triumphs over self; not to the one who causes suffering but to the one who is suffering.

"Dum volvitur orbis," as the world turns. Human history has seen many transitions from one era to another; we speak about the stone age, the bronze age, the iron age, the imperial age, the atomic age, the electronic age. But today there is something new. The idea of a transition is no longer sufficient to describe our current situation. Alongside the idea of a change, one must also place the idea of a dissolution. It has been said that we are now living in a "liquid society." There are no longer any fixed points, any undisputed values,

any rock in the sea to which we can cling or with which we can collide. Everything is in flux.

The worst of the hypotheses the philosopher had foreseen as the effect of the death of God has come to pass, which the advent of the superman was supposed to prevent but did not prevent: "What did we do when we loosened this earth from its sun? Whither does it now move? Whither do we move? Away from all suns? Do we not dash on unceasingly? Backwards, sideways, in all directions? Is there still an above and below? Do we not stray, as through infinite nothingness?" (Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*, aphorism 125).

It has been said that "killing God is the most horrible of suicides," and that is in part what we are seeing. It is not true that "where God is born, man dies" (Jean-Paul Sartre). Just the opposite is true: where God dies, man dies.

A surrealist artist from the second half of the last century (Salvador Dalí) painted a crucifix that seems to be a prophecy of this situation. It depicts an immense, cosmic cross with an equally immense Christ seen from above with his head tilted downward. Below him, however, is not land but water. The Crucified One is not suspended between heaven and earth but between heaven and the liquid element of the earth.

This tragic image (there is also in the background a cloud that could allude to an atomic cloud) nevertheless contains a consoling certainty: there is hope even for a liquid society like ours! There is hope because above it "the cross of Christ



Divine Mercy:

Pathway to Healing

Saturday, April 14

10:00am-4:00pm

Sacred Heart Parish Hall

344 W. Workman St.,
Covina, CA



"And even if the sins of soul are as dark as night, when the sinner turns to My mercy, he gives Me the greatest praise and is the glory of My Passion. When a soul praises My goodness, Satan trembles before it and flees to the very bottom of hell." - Jesus to St. Faustina



**Fr. George
Reynolds**
Associate Pastor,
St. Cornelius
Long Beach, CA



**Fr. Patrick
Crowley, SSCC**
Hemet, CA



**Dominic
Berardino**
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA

Topics:

- Invasion of Mercy from Heaven
- Saintly Connection:
St. Faustina and St. John Paul II
- Growing in the Praise
of Jesus' Merciful Goodness
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Healing Mass

REGISTRATION BEFORE April 9: Register Online: scrc.org

(includes catered chicken lunch) \$20.00

(after Apr. 9 & at the door: \$25)

If you plan to register at the door, please call or email for lunch count. (Registration is the same price, with or without lunch).



Return completed registration
form with payment to: SCRC
Mail to: SCRC, Attn: Divine Mercy
60 SCRC Cabinin Drive, Suite 208
Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379

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Check or Money Order (please make checks payable to: SCRC)

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Total Number of Registration(s) including Lunch _____ @ \$20 per person _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

(after Apr. 9 & at the door: \$25)

Spiritually enriching Books, CDs/DVDs and gifts will be available for purchase throughout the day.



The cross does not "stand" motionless in the midst of the world's upheavals as a reminder of a past event or a mere symbol; it is an ongoing reality that is living and operative.

The Cross continued from page 3

stands." This is what the liturgy for Good Friday has us repeat every year with the words of the poet Venanzio Fortunato: "O crux, ave spes unica," "Hail, O Cross, our only hope."

Yes, God died, he died in his Son Christ Jesus; but he did not remain in the tomb, he was raised. "You crucified and killed Him," Peter shouts to the crowd on the day of Pentecost, "But God raised him up" (see Acts 2:23-24). He is the one who "died but is now alive for evermore" (see Rev. 1:18). The cross does not "stand" motionless in the midst of the world's upheavals as a reminder of a past event or a mere symbol; it is an ongoing reality that is living and operative.

We would make this liturgy of the Passion pointless, however, if we stopped, like the sociologists, at the analysis of the society in which we live. Christ did not come to explain things but to change human beings. The heart of darkness is not only that of some evil person hidden deep in the jungle, nor is it only that of the western society that produced it. It is in each one of us in varying degrees.

The Bible calls it a heart of stone: "I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone," God says through the prophet Ezekiel, "and give you a heart of flesh" (Ez. 36:26). A heart of stone is a heart that is closed to God's will and to the suffering of brothers and sisters, a heart of someone who accumulates unlimited sums of money and remains indifferent to the desperation of the person who does not have a glass of water to give to his or her own child; it is also the heart of someone who lets himself or herself be completely dominated by impure passion and is ready to kill for that passion or to lead a double life. Not to keep our gaze turned only outward toward others, we can say that this also actually describes our hearts as ministers for God and as practicing Christians if we still live fundamentally "for ourselves" and not "for the Lord."

It is written that at the moment of Christ's death, "The curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised" (Matt.27:51). These

signs are generally given an apocalyptic explanation as if it is the symbolic language needed to describe the eschatological event. But these signs also have a parenetic significance: they indicate what should happen in the heart of a person who reads and meditates on the Passion of Christ. In a liturgy like today's, St. Leo the Great said to the faithful, "The earth—our earthly nature—should tremble at the suffering of its Redeemer. The rocks—the hearts of unbelievers—should burst asunder. The dead, imprisoned in the tombs of their mortality, should come forth, the massive stones now ripped apart." ("Sermon 66," 3; PL 54, 366).

The heart of flesh, promised by God through the prophets, is now present in the world: it is the heart of Christ pierced on the cross, the heart we venerate as the "Sacred Heart." In receiving the Eucharist we firmly believe his very heart comes to beat inside of us as well. As we are about to gaze upon the cross, let us say from the bottom of our hearts, like the tax collector in the temple, "God, be merciful to me a sinner!" and then we too, like he did, will return home "justified" (Lk. 18:13-14).†

March, 2018 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Thursday, March 8

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm with Fr. Jose Vettiyankal at Our Lady of Grace, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

Saturday, March 10

San Fernando Magnificat Chapter Prayer Meal, 10:00am-1:00pm at Odyssey Restaurant, 15600 Odyssey Dr., Granada Hills, CA. Guest Speaker: LaChita Calloway. \$29/person before 2/28. After 2/28, \$31. Contact Teri: (805) 527-3745.

Wednesday, March 14

Mass & Healing Service with Lenten Recollection, 6:30pm with Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC at St. Catherine of Siena, 18115 Sherman Way, Reseda.

Saturday, March 17

"Spiritual Warfare: What You Need to Know", 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Bob Garon, Teri Thompson & Dominic Berardino at St. Didacus Parish Hall, 14337 Astoria St., Sylmar. \$20 before March 12th, (includes catered chicken lunch) Mass included. Please see page 7 for info/reg form.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Wednesday, March 7

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm with Fr. Jose Vettiyankal at St. Philip, 151 S. Hill Ave., Pasadena.

Friday, March 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC at San

Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17

Gabriel Mission (Old Mission Church)
428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel.

Saturday, March 24

SCRC Spring Conference, "Fresh Anointing of the Spirit", 10:00am-5:30pm at Santa Teresita, (Madonna Hall) 819 Buena Vista St., Duarte. (Before Mar. 16: \$22. After Mar. 16, \$27) Register online at scrc.org or see page 2 for registration form.

ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, March 9

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Brandon Dang at Mission Hospital Conference Center, Rms. A,B&C. 26726 Crown Valley Pkwy., Mission Viejo.

Joyous Easter Blessings!
April 1

April, 2017 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Wednesday, April 11

Mass & Healing Service, 6:30pm with Fr. Joshua Lee at St. Catherine of Siena, 18115 Sherman Way, Reseda.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, April 14

"Divine Mercy: Pathway to Healing", 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. George Reynolds, Fr. Patrick Crowley, SSCC & Dominic Berardino at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 344 W. Workman St., Covina. \$20 before April 9th. \$25 at the door. Register online at scrc.org

or page 4 for registration form.

Friday, April 27

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Ray Smith, CMF at San Gabriel Mission (Old Mission Church) 428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel.

SAN PEDRO REGION

Wednesday, April 11

Mass & Healing Service, 1:00pm-3:00pm with Fr. Pat Crowley, SSCC at St. Bruno, 15740 Citrustree Rd., Whittier.

Monday, April 16

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Lester Niez at St. Linus, 13915 Shoemaker Ave., Norwalk.

Monday, April 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at St. Cornelius, 5500 E. Wardlow, Long Beach.

ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, April 13

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Kerry Beaulieu at Mission Hospital Conference Center, Rms. A,B&C. 26726 Crown Valley Pkwy., Mission Viejo.

Monday, April 23

Mass & Healing Service, 7:15pm with Fr. Eamon O'Gorman at St. Angela Merici, 585 S. Walnut, Brea.



Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC



Dominic Berardino

Healing Your Family Tree

Praying for Our Loved Ones: Living & Deceased

Healing the Harmful Effects of Ancestral Sin • Why is it Important to Pray for the Deceased?
Breaking Bondages Over Generations • Mass for Healing the Family Tree
Helping Future Generations Experience Freedom and Transformation

Saturday, May 26, 2018 9:30am-3:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall • 435 N. Berkeley Ave., Claremont
Registration Deadline: May 21: \$25 . After May 21 or at the door: \$30. Bring Sack Lunch or nearby restaurants

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Spiritual Warfare

What You Need to Know

Topics include:

- Evil Spirits - Are They for Real?
 - Protection from Spiritual Darkness
 - St. Patrick and Other Spiritual Warrior Saints
 - Discernment of Spirits
- Mass Included!**

**Saturday,
March 17, 2018**

10:00am - 4:00pm

St. Didacus Parish Hall
14337 Astoria St, Sylmar CA 91342



Fr. Bob Garon
Pastor, St. Didacus Church,
Sylmar, CA

After years in the entertainment industry doing comedy and experimenting with New Age, Fr. Bob had a conversion experience that changed him forever!



Teri Thompson
Coordinator,
San Fernando Valley
Magnificat



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC,
Burbank, CA
(Southern California
Renewal Communities)
A Catholic Renewal ministry
commissioned by the
Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

REGISTRATION BEFORE March 12th: (includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20.00**

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 03/12/18. (after March 12 & at the door: \$25)

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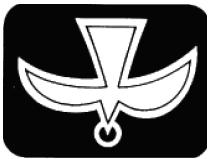
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spirit@scrc.org scrc.org

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..." (1 Peter 1:3)

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August 31 - September 2, 2018

Anaheim Convention Center

The Spirit Gives Life



John 6:63



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Los Angeles
Archdiocese



Bishop
David O'Connell
Los Angeles
Archdiocese



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...and many more inspiring speakers!