

**Providing
Support and
Leadership
for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal**

**Volume 47
Number 2**

On Good Friday, 2018, 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:

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. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. (Jn 19:33-35).

No one could convince us that this solemn attestation does not correspond to historical truth, that the one who says he was there and saw it was really not there and did not see it. What is at stake, in this case, is the honesty of the author. On Calvary, at the foot of the cross, was the mother of Jesus and next to her, "the disciple whom Jesus loved." We have the testimony of an eyewitness!

He "saw" not only what was happening as everyone looked on, but in the light of the Holy Spirit after Passover he also saw the meaning of what happened: in this moment the true Lamb of God was sacrificed and the meaning of the ancient Passover was fulfilled; Christ on the cross was the new temple of God from whose side, as the prophet Ezekiel predicted (47:1ff), flowed the water of life; the spirit that he gave up at the moment of death began the new creation, just as in the beginning "the Spirit of God," hovering over the waters, had transformed the chaos in the cosmos. John understood the meaning of Jesus' last words: "It is fulfilled" (see Jn 19:30).

But why, we can ask ourselves, this unbounded concentration on the significance of the cross of Christ? Why is the Crucified One omnipresent in our churches, on



SCRC SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities
March / April 2019

HE WHO SAW IT HAS BORNE WITNESS

Jn 19:33-35

by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.



altars, and in every place frequented by Christians? Someone has suggested, as a key to understanding the Christian mystery, that God reveals himself "sub contraria specie," under a form contrary to what he is in reality: he reveals his power in weakness, his wisdom in foolishness, his riches in poverty.

This key, however, does not apply to the cross. On the cross God reveals himself "sub propria specie," he reveals himself as he really is, in his most intimate and truest reality. "God is love," John writes (1 Jn 4:10), oblation love, a love that consists in

self-giving, and only on the cross does God's infinite capacity for self-gift manifest the length to which it will go. "Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (Jn 13:1); "God so loved the world that he gave [meaning to death!] his only Son" (Jn 3:16); "The Son of God . . . loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20).

We have every reason to believe that John joined Jesus when he was still quite young. It was a real falling in love. Everything else

Borne Witness continued on page 3



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and His Mighty Power
Make You Strong

The Fight to the Finish
Against the Devil
and all his angels

Using All the Weapons
God Offers

Putting on God's Armor

Mass Included



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



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC,
Burbank, CA

Saturday, March 23

10:00am-4:00pm

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suddenly took second place. It was a "personal," existential encounter. Whereas at the center of Paul's thinking is the work of Jesus—his paschal mystery of death and resurrection—at the center of John's thinking is the being, the person, of Jesus. This is the source of all the "I am" statements with divine resonance that punctuate his Gospel: "I am the way, the truth, and the life"; "I am the door"; simply "I am."

John was almost certainly one of John the Baptist's two disciples who, when Jesus appeared on the scene, followed him. When they asked, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus answered, "Come and see." "They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour" (see Jn 1:35-39). That hour decided the course of John's life, and he never forgot it.

It is appropriate that we make an effort to discover together with young people what Christ expects from them, what they can offer the Church and society. The most important thing, however, is something else: it is to help young people understand what Jesus has to offer them. John discovered it while staying with him: "fullness of joy" and "abundant life." Let us do this in such a way that, in all the speeches about young people and to young people, the heartfelt invitation of the Holy Father in *Evangelii gaudium* will resonate as an undercurrent:

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord" (EG, n. 3).

To encounter Christ personally is still possible today because he is risen; he is a living person, not a personage. Everything is possible after this personal encounter; without it nothing will be stable or enduring.

Besides the example of his life, the evangelist John has also left a written message to young people. In his First Letter we read these moving words from an elder to the young people in the churches he founded:

I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. (1 Jn 2:14-15)

The world that we must not love and to which we should not be conformed, as we know, is not the world created and loved by God or the people in the world whom we must always go out to meet, especially the poor and those at the lowest level of society. "Blending in" with this world of suffering and marginalization is, paradoxically, the best way of "separating" ourselves from the world because it means going in the direction from which the world flees as much as it can. It means separating ourselves from the very principle that rules the world, self-centeredness.

No, the world we must not love is something else; it is the world as it has become under the dominion of Satan and sin, the "spirit of the air," as St. Paul calls it (see Eph 2:1-2). It plays a decisive role in public opinion, and today it is literally a spirit "of the air" because it is spreads itself in infinite ways electronically through airwaves. One famous exegete writes that this spirit "is so intense and powerful that no individual can escape it. It serves as a norm and is taken for granted. To act, think or speak against this spirit is regarded as non-sensical or even as wrong and criminal. It is 'in' this spirit that men encounter the world and affairs, which means they accept the world as this spirit presents it to them."

This is what we call an adaptation to the spirit of the age, conformity. One great believing poet from the last century, T. S. Eliot, has written three verses that say more than whole books: "In a world of fugitives / The person taking the opposite direction / Will appear to run away." Dear young Christians, if you will allow an old man like John to address you directly, I would exhort you: be those who take the opposite direction! Have the courage to go against the stream! The opposite direction for us is not a place but a person; it is Jesus, our friend and redeemer.

A task and a mission are particularly entrusted to you: to rescue human love from the tragic drift in which it had ended up: love

that is no longer a gift of self but only the possession—often violent and tyrannical—of another. God revealed himself on the cross as agape, the love that gives itself. But agape is never dissociated from eros, from a love that welcomes, that pursues, that desires, and that finds joy in being loved in return. God not only exercises "charity" in loving us, he also desires us; throughout the Bible he reveals himself as a loving and jealous spouse. His love is also "erotic" in the noble sense of that word. This is what Benedict XVI explained in his encyclical *Deus caritas est*:

Eros and agape—ascending love and descending love—can never be completely separated. ...Biblical faith does not set up a parallel universe, or one opposed to that primordial human phenomenon which is love, but rather accepts the whole man; it intervenes in his search for love in order to purify it and to reveal new dimensions of it. (nos. 7-8)

It is not a question of renouncing the joys of love, attraction, and eros but of knowing how to unite eros and agape in the desire for another, the ability to give oneself to the other, recalling what St. Paul refers to as a saying of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

This ability, however, does not come about in one day. It is necessary to prepare yourselves to make a total gift of self to another creature in marriage, or to God in consecrated life, beginning by making a gift of your time, of your smile, and of this period of your lives in the family, in the parish, and in volunteer work. This is what so many of you are already quietly doing.

On the cross Jesus not only gave us an example of selfgiving love carried to the extreme; he also merited the grace for us to be able to bring it to pass, to some extent, in our lives. The water and blood that flowed from his side comes to us today in the sacraments of the Church, in God's word, and even in just looking at the Crucified One in faith. One last thing John saw prophetically at the cross: men and women of every time and place who were turning their gaze to "the one who was pieced" and who wept tears of repentance and of consolation (see Jn 19:37 and Zac 12:10). †



Divine Mercy Conference



I am the LORD your healer Ex. 15:26

Saturday, April 27 9:30am-3:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall

435 Berkeley Avenue
Claremont, 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



Dr. Elizabeth Kim
Psychologist,
Brain Fitness Center,
LA & Orange
Counties



Dominic Berardino
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA

Topics:

- **Jesus - the Divine Mercy**
- **Healing Prayers of Merciful Love**
- **St. Faustina's Remarkable Mystical Experiences**
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet**
- **Healing Mass**
- **Blessing with First Class Relic of St. Faustina**

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(after Apr. 22 & at the door: **\$25**)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 04/22/19.
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(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379

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SCRC Catholic Renewal Convention

August 30 - September 1, 2019

Anaheim Convention Center and Arena



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HOPE OF THE WORLD

AUG. 30-SEPT. 1, 2019 ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER

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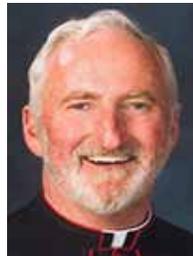
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Registration available online in April. • Hard copy brochures available after Easter.

March, 2019 Calendar

Ash Wednesday - Lent begins
March 6

SAN FERNANDO REGION

Saturday, March 2

"Healing the Family Tree", 10:00am-4:00pm with Bishop David O'Connell, Fr. Michael Barry, SSCC & Dominic Berardino at Incarnation Church Community Center, 214 W. Fairview Ave., (near Central Ave.) Glendale. \$25 before Feb 25th. Healing the Family Tree Mass included. Please see back page for info/reg form.

Thursday, March 21

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Joshua Alvero at St. Joseph the Worker, 19855 Sherman Way, Canoga Park. (Praise & Worship begins at 7:00pm)

Saturday, March 23

"The War for Your Soul", 10:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Bob Garon & Dominic Berardino at St. Didacus Parish Hall, 14337 Astoria St., Sylmar. \$20 before March 18th, (includes catered chicken lunch) Mass included. Please see page 2 for info/reg form.

Thursday, March 28

Mass & Healing Service (Healing the Family Tree, 6:30pm with Fr. Patrick Crowley, SSCC at Our Lady of Grace, 5011 White Oak Ave., Encino.

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Friday, March 22

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Darren

Lent A TIME TO
GROW
CLOSER TO JESUS

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

ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, March 8

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

Happy St. Patrick's Day! St. Patrick, Pray for us!

April, 2019 Calendar

Joyous Easter Blessings!
April 21

SAN GABRIEL REGION

Saturday, April 13

SCRC Spring Conference, *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength"*, 10:00am-5:30pm at Santa Teresita, (Madonna Hall) 819 Buena Vista St., Duarte. (Before Apr. 4: \$22. After Apr. 4, \$27) Register online at scrc.org or see opposite page for registration form.

Saturday, April 27

"Divine Mercy Conference: I Am the LORD your healer", 9:30am-3:00pm with Fr. George Reynolds, Dr. Elizabeth Kim & Dominic Berardino at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall, 435 Berkeley, Claremont. (includes catered chicken lunch) \$20 before April 22nd.

\$25 at the door. Register online at scrc.org or page 4 for registration form.

Friday, April 26

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Delaney, SJ at San Gabriel Mission (Old Mission Church) 428 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel.

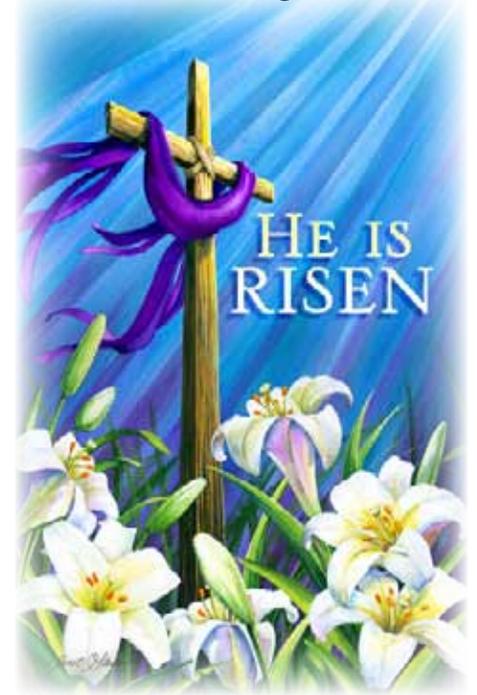
ORANGE DIOCESE

Friday, April 26

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



Hallelujah!





SCRC Spring Conference

*Those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.*

ISAIAH 40:31



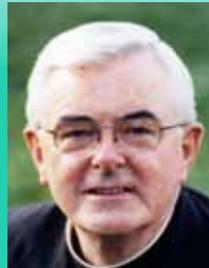
Saturday, April 13, 2019 10:00am-5:30pm



Sr. Regina Marie
Gorman, OCD
"Trusting
in the Lord"



Fr. Bob
Garon
"Strength for
the Journey"



Fr. Patrick
Crowley, SSCC
Palm Sunday
Mass &
Healing Prayer



Kay
Murdy
"Abounding
in Hope"



Fr. Bill
Delaney, SJ
"I Am
With You"

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a schedule, tickets, detailed directions,
parking info. and map of local restaurants.

Signature



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*"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)*

DATED MATERIAL



Bishop David O'Connell



Fr. Mike Barry, SSCC



Dominic Berardino

Healing the 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

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