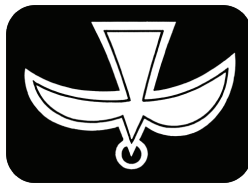


Providing
Support and
Leadership
for the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal

Volume 48
Number 2



SCRC
SPIRIT

Southern California Renewal Communities

March / April 2020

On Good Friday, 2019, 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:

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Is 53:3)

These are the prophetic words of Isaiah with which we begin the Liturgy of the Word today. The account of the passion that follows has given a name and a face to this mysterious man of sorrows who was despised and rejected by all men: the name and the face of Jesus of Nazareth. Today we want to contemplate the Crucified One specifically in his capacity as the prototype and representative of all the rejected, the disinherited, and the "discarded" of the earth, those from whom we turn aside our faces so as not to see them. Jesus did not begin to be that man just at his passion. Throughout his life he was part of this group. He is born in a stable "because there was no place for them in the inn" (Lk 2:7). In presenting him in the temple, his parents offer "two turtledoves or two young pigeons," the offering prescribed by the law for the poor who could not offer a lamb (see Lev 12:8). That was a genuine proof of poverty in Israel of that time. During his public life, he has nowhere to lay his head (see Mt 8:20): he is homeless.

Now we come to his passion. In the account there is a moment that we do not often focus on but that is extremely significant: Jesus in the praetorium of Pilate (see Mk 15:16-20). The soldiers had noticed



HE WAS DESPISED AND REJECTED BY MEN

by Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap.

a bramble bush in the adjacent open space; they gathered some thorny branches from it and pressed them into his head; to mock him they put a cloak on his shoulders that were still bloody from his scourging; his hands were bound with a rough rope; they placed a reed in his hands, an ironic symbol of his royalty. He is the prototype of handcuffed people, alone, at the mercy of soldiers and thugs who take out the rage and cruelty they stored up during their lives on the unfortunate poor. He was tortured! "Ecce homo!" "Here is the man!" exclaims Pilate in presenting him shortly after to the people (Jn 19:5). These are words which, after Christ, can be said of the endless host of men and women who are vilified, reduced to being objects, deprived of all human dignity. The author Primo Levi titled the account of his life in the extermination camp in Auschwitz, *If This Is a Man*. On the cross Jesus of Nazareth becomes the symbol of this part of humanity

that is "humiliated and insulted." One would want to exclaim, "You who are rejected, spurned, pariahs of the whole earth: the greatest man in history was one of you! Whatever nation, race, or religion you belong to, you have the right to claim him as yours."

The African-American writer and theologian Howard Thurman—the man Martin Luther King considered his teacher and his inspiration for the non-violent struggle for human rights—wrote a book called *Jesus and the Disinherited*. In it he shows what the figure of Jesus represented for the slaves in the south, of whom he himself was a direct descendant. When the slaves were deprived of every right and completely abject, the words of the Gospel that the minister would repeat in their segregated worship—the only meeting they were allowed to have—would give the slaves back a sense of their dignity as children of God. The

Rejected and Despised continued on page 3



scrc.org

AN EXORCIST TELLS HIS STORY



Saturday, May 23
12:30pm - 4:00pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe
Parish Hall
440 Massey St.
Hermosa Beach, CA



Fr. John Farao, OFM Conv.
Exorcist,
Diocese of Monterey,
Prison Chaplain.

also speaking...



Dominic Bernardino
President, SCRC
Burbank, CA

Topics:

- **Why Are exorcisms on the rise today?**
- **Is the Devil a myth or personal being?**
- **What is the nature of the spiritual battle between good and evil?**
- **How do you spiritually protect yourself and loved ones?**

(Attendees are welcome to attend the parish 5:00pm Vigil Mass)



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Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 fax (818) 771-1379
scrc.org spirit@scrc.org

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EARLY REGISTRATION
BEFORE May 20: \$20.00

AFTER May 20 or at the door
and ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$25.00

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Telephone () _____ Email: _____

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

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

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Rejected and Despised continued from cover page majority of Negro Spirituals that still move the world today arose in this context. At the time of public auction, slaves experienced the anguish of seeing wives separated from their husbands and children from their parents, being sold at times to different masters. It is easy to imagine the spirit with which they sang out in the sun or inside their huts, "Nobody knows the trouble I have seen. Nobody knows, but Jesus."

This is not the only meaning of the passion and death of Christ, and it is not even the most important. The most profound meaning is not social but spiritual and mystical. That death redeemed the world from sin; it brought the love of God to the farthest and darkest place in which humanity has been trapped in its flight from him, that is, death. This is not, as I said, the most important meaning of the cross, but it is the one that all people, believers and non-believers, can recognize and receive. I repeat, everyone, and not just believers. Through the event of the Incarnation of the Son of God he made himself man and united himself to all of humanity, but through the manner of his Incarnation he made himself one of the poor and rejected and embraced their cause. He took it upon himself to ensure that when he solemnly affirmed that whatever we did for the hungry, the naked, the incarcerated, the outcast, we did to him, and whatever we omitted doing for them, we omitted doing to him (see Mt 25:31-46). But we cannot stop here. If Jesus had only this to say to the disinherited of the world, he would only be one more among them, an example of dignity in the face of misfortune and nothing more. Then it would be a further proof against the God who allowed all of this. We know the indignant reaction of Ivan, the rebellious brother in *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoevsky, when Aloysha, the younger brother, mentions Jesus to him: "Ah, yes, the 'only sinless One' and his blood! No, I have not forgotten about him; on the contrary, I've been

wondering all the while why you hadn't brought him up for so long, because in discussions your people usually trot him out first thing." The Gospel does not in fact stop here. It says something else: it says that the Crucified One is risen! In him a total reversal of roles has taken place: the vanquished has become the victor; the one judged has become the judge, "the stone which was rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone" (see Acts 4:11). The final word is not and never will be injustice and oppression. Jesus not only restored dignity to the disinherited of the world, he also gave them hope!

In the first three centuries of the Church the celebration of Easter was not spread out over several days the way it is now: Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Everything was concentrated in one day. Both the death and resurrection were commemorated at the Easter vigil. To be more precise, neither the death nor the resurrection were commemorated as distinct and separate events; instead what was commemorated was the passage of Christ from one to the other, from death to life. The word "pascha" (pesach) means "passage": the passage of the Jewish people from slavery to freedom, the passage of Christ from this world to the Father (see Jn 13:1), and the passage from sin to grace for those who believe in him. It is the feast of the reversal directed by God and accomplished in Christ; it is the beginning and the promise of the unique turnaround that is completely just and irreversible concerning humanity's fate. We can say to the poor, the outcasts, those who are trapped in different forms of slavery still occurring in our society: Easter is your feast!

The cross also contains a message for those who are on the opposite side of this equation: the powerful, the strong, those who are comfortable in their role as "victors."



And it is a message, as always, of love and salvation, not of hate or vengeance. It reminds them that in the end they are bound to the same fate as everyone else: whether weak or strong, defenseless or tyrannical, all are subjected to the same laws and to the same human limitations. Death, like the sword of Damocles, hangs over everyone's head by a thread. It warns against the worst evil for a human being, the illusion of omnipotence. We do not need to go back too far in time; it is enough to remember recent history to be aware of how frequent this danger is and how it leads individuals and nations to catastrophe. Scripture has words of eternal wisdom for those who dominate the world's stage:

Learn, O judges of the ends of the earth / . . . Mighty men will be mightily tested. (Wis 6:1, 6).

Man cannot abide in his pomp, / he is like the beasts that perish. (Ps 49:20).

For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? (Lk 9:25).

The Church has received the mandate from its founder to stand with the poor and the weak, to be the voice for those who have no voice, and, thanks be to God, that is what she does, especially in her Chief Shepherd.

The second historical task that religions need to take on together today, besides promoting peace, is not to remain silent in the face of the situation that is there for everyone to see. A few privileged

Grace Perfects Nature

by Fr. Sean Stilson, BBD

How many times have you been to Mass, and despite your best efforts and your prayers, you received nothing from the homily? This was my experience so often while I was in college. It seemed like certain priests were offering up their words—uninspired and uninspiring—when what I really needed was God's words through them.

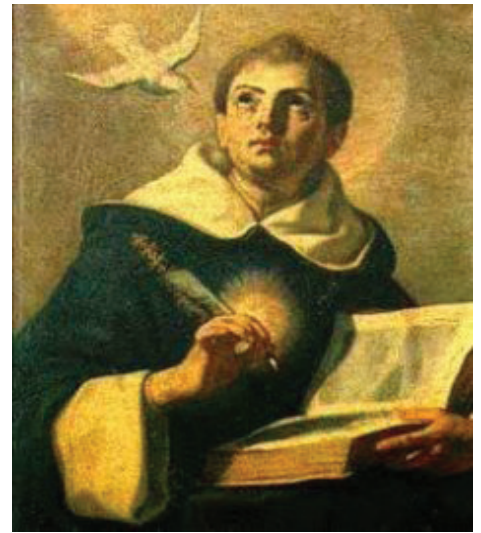
Part of my attraction to the Charismatic Renewal came from my severe disappointment with human effort unaided by grace. I joined an explicitly Catholic charismatic religious community, the Brothers of the Beloved Disciple, precisely because I did not want to rely solely on my own natural abilities. The world does not need me; the world needs what God can do through me.

Catholics outside the Renewal have the tendency to focus too much on the natural and not enough on the supernatural. This does not mean, however, that the opposite extreme is healthy.

Those of us within the Renewal must avoid the danger of relying only on God's grace while ignoring the necessary contribution of human nature.

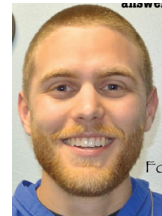
If someone is having a lot of problems in his life, maybe he needs a deliverance from evil spirits and a healing of his family tree, or maybe he just needs greater psychological maturity. If someone is suffering from disease and discomfort, maybe she needs people to pray over her for healing, and maybe she needs to exercise a few times a week and stop consuming sugar. If someone is not skilled at giving talks at the prayer meeting, maybe he needs to pray more for the charism of teaching, but maybe he also needs to read a few books about the Faith and get some practice with public speaking.

None of these situations are either/or. We can do both. We can ask for God's help while also applying the best solutions that human effort can provide.



...grace does not destroy nature, but perfects it... St. Thomas Aquinas

Expecting God to do everything for us is not a recipe for success. God wants us to do our part. He did not create us to be his slaves, pets, or perpetual infants, but his partners in ministry. To respond well to his grace, our human nature must develop. God wants us to reach maturity not only in the supernatural realm, but also in the natural.



Fr. Sean Stilson is Brothers of the Beloved Disciple (BBD) Vocation Director and a parish parochial vicar. Reprinted from the Spring, 2019 issue of *Pentecost Today*.
nsc-chariscenter.org

Lent.

a season of renewal

Rejected and Despised continued from page 3

people possess more goods than they could ever consume, while for entire centuries countless masses of poor people have lived without having a piece of bread or a sip of water to give their children. No religion can remain indifferent to this because the God of all the religions is not indifferent to all of this.

Let us return to the prophecy of Isaiah that we started with. It begins with a description of the humiliation of the Servant of God,

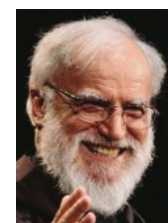
but it concludes with a description of his final exaltation. God is the one speaking:

He shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied. . . .

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out his soul to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Is 53:11-12)

In two days, with the an-

nouncement of Jesus' resurrection, the liturgy will give a name and a face to this victor. Let us keep watch and meditate in expectation.



Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa is a Franciscan Capuchin Catholic Priest. Born in Ascoli Piceno, Italy. Author of numerous books. Appointed by Pope John Paul II as Preacher to the Papal Household in 1980. For more of Fr. Cantalamessa's Sermons to the Papal Household, please visit: cantalamessa.org

Amazing, Glorious Love

Divine Mercy Conference

Saturday, April 18

9:30am-3:15pm

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall

435 Berkeley Avenue
Claremont, CA



Jesus, I trust in You



St. Faustina

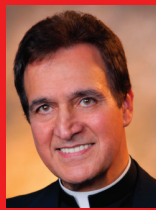
"And even if the sins of soul are as dark as night, when the sinner turns to My mercy, he gives Me the greatest praise and is the glory of My Passion. When a soul praises My goodness, Satan trembles before it and flees to the very bottom of hell." - Jesus to St. Faustina



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



Fr. Chris Troxell
Associate Pastor,
Our Lady of the
Assumption,
Claremont, CA



Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC
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St. Sebastian,
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Dominic Berardino
President,
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- **St. Faustina and St. John Paul II: Apostles of Divine Mercy**
- **Divine Mercy Comes To Us Even Though We Are Not Worthy**
- **Letting God Love You**
- **Healing Mass, Includes Blessing with First Class Relic of St. Faustina**
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm**

REGISTRATION BEFORE April 13:

Register Online: scrc.org

(includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20.00**

(after Apr. 13 & at the door: **\$25**)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 04/13/20. 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
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Total Number of Registration(s) including Lunch _____ @ \$20 per person _____ Amt. Enclosed _____
(after Apr. 13 & at the door: \$25)

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

March, 2020 Calendar

SAN FERNANDO REGION Thursday, March 19

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm at St. Joseph the Worker, 19855 Sherman Way, Winnetka. (Praise & Worship begins at 7:00pm)

SAN GABRIEL REGION Saturday, March 14

Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat, 9:00am-4:00pm with Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, Fr. Ed Broom, OMV, Healing the Family Tree Mass w/Fr. Lou Cerulli

& Donna Lee at Sacred Heart Parish Hall, 344 W. Workman St., Covina. Registration fee \$25 (with lunch before Feb. 29). Contact: Estrella & Angel Mijares angelstar73@earthlink.net

ORANGE DIOCESE Friday, March 13

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Joshua Lee at Mission Hospital Conf. Center, (Rms. A,B&C) 26726 Crown Valley Pkwy., Mission Viejo.

Lent A TIME TO
GROW CLOSER TO JESUS

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY! ST. PATRICK, PRAY FOR US!

April, 2020 Calendar

Joyous Easter Blessings!
April 12

SAN FERNANDO REGION



Saturday, April 4
SCRC Spring Conference, "Living in the Power of God's Word", 10:00am-4:15pm with Fr. Jim Nisbet, Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR & Kay Murdy at **New Location!** -St. Finbar Parish Hall, 2010 W. Olive Ave., (at Keystone St.) Burbank. (Before Mar. 23: \$22. After Mar. 23, \$27) **Register online at scrc.org or see opposite page for registration form.**

Thursday, April 16

Mass & Healing Service, 7:30pm with Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR, at St. Joseph the Worker, 19855 Sherman Way, Winnetka. (Praise & Worship begins at 7:00pm)



**SAN GABRIEL REGION
Saturday, April 18**
"Divine Mercy Conference: "Amazing, Glorious Love", 9:30am-3:15pm with Fr. George Reynolds, Fr. Charles Lueras, CRIC, Fr. Chris Troxell & Dominic Berardino at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish Hall, 435 Berkeley, Claremont. (includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20 before April 13 or \$25 at the door. Register online at scrc.org or page 4 for registration form.**

ORANGE DIOCESE Friday, April 17

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



He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.

Luke 24: 6-7



SCRC Spring Conference

LIVING IN THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD



Fr. Bill Adams, CSsR
Palm Sunday Vigil Mass
"Healed by God's Word"



Fr. Jim Nisbet
"Transformed by God's Word"
& "Guided by God's Word"



Kay Murdy
"Strengthened by
God's Word"



St. Finbar Parish Hall
2010 W. Olive Ave. (at Keystone)
Burbank, CA

Saturday,
April 4, 2020
10:00am-4:15pm

REGISTRATION FORM

DISCOUNTED REGISTRATION
THRU March 23, 2020: \$22.00

Online Registration
Available!
scrc.org

PRICES AFTER March 23, 2020
and ON-SITE REGISTRATION: \$27.00



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Burbank, CA 91504-1740
(818) 771-1361 FAX (818) 771-1379
scrc.org spirit@scrc.org

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if new address, check box, and list former address _____

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Only registrations paid with a credit card can be faxed to: (818) 771-1379.

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Signature

All individuals whose pre-registrations are received by March 23, 2020 will be sent a schedule, name badge, parking info. and map of local restaurants.



From Spiritual Warfare to Spiritual Blessings



Topics include:

- **The Power of His Name: From Spiritual Attack to Spiritual Freedom**
 - **God's Gifts of Spiritual Protection**
 - **Spiritual Blessings from Heaven**
- Mass Included

Saturday, February 22
10:00am - 4:00pm
St. Didacus Parish Hall
14325 Astoria St.
Sylmar, CA



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



Dominic Berardino
 President, SCRC
 Burbank, CA

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(includes catered chicken lunch) **\$20.00**

(after Feb. 18 & at the door: **\$25**)

Luncheon guaranteed for those registered by 02/18/20.

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

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Southern California



Renewal Communities

scrc.org

49th Annual

SCRC CATHOLIC RENEWAL CONVENTION

THE LIGHT

SHINES IN THE DARKNESS John 1:5



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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)*

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SCRC SPIRIT

