

Dear Vincentian

The readings that have been chosen are from Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. They are meant for April meetings, if the meetings are held, and/or for private prayer for all Vincentians. We have forwarded this to all your conference members. There is more material than you can use so pick what you want.

Luke 22:19

"This is my body which is given for you"

Luke 23:46

"He breathed his last."

Luke 23:47

'When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent'".

Luke 24:5

"He is not here but has risen."

Each of the following the sections are meant to take as long as you wish up to 20 minutes for each. Just do one section or as many as you choose. Where I suggest discussion and there are no meetings, perhaps talk about this with family members, on the phone with fellow Vincentians or others you know who might want such reflections. "Discussion" can be "thinking" by oneself with the Holy Spirit.

Discussion

A. Pray and reflect on the death of Jesus. Without ignoring the past historical realities, Jesus was crucified by the sins of the world.

How is Jesus being crucified today?

Take two minutes and in private and in silence examine your consciences and your own personal sinfulness. Then take two minutes to discuss how Jesus is being crucified by all of us as a community. Discuss our communal and social responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus today.

Together/individually recite the "Confiteor"(the "I confess") or an act of contrition

- B. Who are the innocent people who are suffering today? How does the innocent suffering of Jesus help those innocent people in their suffering? Reflect and discuss on this publicly for a few minutes and then pray:

"The Lord hears the cry of the poor,

Blessed be the Lord".

Hymn from Ps. 34

- C. What have you missed most about not having mass for these weeks? Say this prayer:

" Soul of Christ ,sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me...

O good Jesus , hear me."

From Anima Christi?

- D. Discuss the challenges we face in believing that Jesus is truly risen from the dead. Help one another through discussion as to the faith belief that Jesus now has continuity with his historical body on earth and his risen body. Discuss with one another that there is continuity with the body of Jesus on earth and His risen body is also different. The Church teaches that both continuity and difference in the body of Christ are essential to our Resurrection faith. Pray together this prayer: "Jesus Christ is risen from the dead; He is truly risen! Alleluia"