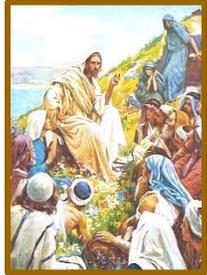




THE PATH TO EASTER

“The path to Easter demands that we renew our faces and hearts as Christians through repentance, conversion, and forgiveness, so as to live fully the abundant grace of the paschal mystery” (Pope Francis, 2019 Message for Lent). At this point on the path (the Fifth Sunday of Lent), let us take the opportunity (hopefully with faces and hearts renewed) to remember with gratitude, God’s giant leap into our world as it has enfolded over the past four weeks, and recommit ourselves to the small steps on the path to Easter.



- ✠ The path to Easter took us for ashes on Ash Wednesday and we were told: “do not be like the hypocrites” (cf. Saint Matthew VI:1-6, 16-18).

Are you ready to return to dust? Have you repented and believed in the Gospel?

- ✠ The path to Easter took us into the desert on the First Sunday of Lent and three times we heard Christ Jesus say: “It is written” (cf. Saint Luke I:4-13).

Do you know what is written about Adam and Eve, false gods, Moses, Jonah, adultery, Sodom and Gomorrah, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, the Ascension, the Apocalypse, ... Jesus?

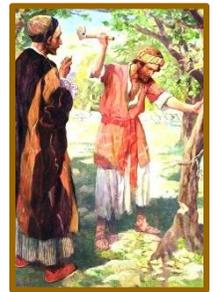


- ✠ The path to Easter led us up a mountain on the Second Sunday of Lent and a voice from Heaven told us: “Listen to Him” (cf. Saint Luke IX:28B-36).

Did you listen to Him when Satan tempted you to take the Lord’s Name in vain, miss Holy Mass, lie, commit adultery, ... break the Commandments?

- ✠ The path to Easter led us to church on the Third Sunday of Lent and Christ told us the Parable of the Barren Fig Tree (cf. Saint Luke XIII:1-9).

Since then have you prayed more fervently, fasted more sacrificially, and given alms more generously, or are you wasting the soil/the time God has given you?



- ✠ The path to Easter led us to church on the Fourth Sunday of Lent and Christ told us the Parable of the Prodigal Son? (cf. Saint Luke XV: 1-3, 11-32).

Are you still spending money irresponsibly and on things that are sinful? Are you still jealous, selfish, bitter, angry, and holding on to grudges?

- ✠ The path to Easter has led us with the woman caught in adultery to the feet of Jesus where we hear Him say: “Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Are you still sinning?



“Let us ask God to help us set out on a path of true conversion. Let us leave behind our selfishness and self-absorption, and turn to Jesus’ Pasch” (ibid. Pope Francis) where-in we can find the Way to take the small steps that on the path to Easter, bear witness to the Resurrection even before we arrive at the empty tomb!