



SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015

SOLEMNITY OF THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (OR SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY) We are stronger for the scars

There's a classic scene in the 1975 movie *Jaws* where Quint, Hooper, and Brody are at sea, comparing the scars they have. From a moray eel bite to an arm-wrestling match, each scar contains the memory of great physical and emotional pain. Their conversation is more than a friendly game of bettering the other ("I got that beat!"); it's a way of sharing and weaving together significant stories on their journey. The scars we have witness not only to hardship but also to resilience! Consider the scars that you bear. How might they impart meaning to yourself and to others?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 5:1-6; John 20:19-31 (44)*. "Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

MONDAY, APRIL 13

FEAST OF MARTIN I, POPE, MARTYR; EASTER WEEKDAY Choose the good

Get a powerful person angry and you often pay a penalty. Martin I became the last pope-martyr for accepting his election without waiting for the emperor's approval. That "mistake" was followed quickly by another: Martin condemned a notion the emperor favored. Folks like the emperor preferred to think of Christ's humanity as dissolving "like a drop of honey in the sea" of his divinity—rendering Christ's free choice to save us as no choice at all. Goodness must always be chosen, which makes us truly human and not puppets—as emperors then and now would like us to be.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:23-31; John 3:1-8 (267)*. "What is born of flesh is flesh and what is born of spirit is spirit."

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 EASTER WEEKDAY Leap of faith

There is a folksy saying, attributed to many different ethnic groups, that goes: "Every baby is born with a loaf of bread under his arm." In so many words, it means that God will provide, even if you're not exactly sure how. It's difficult to let go of worry in the face of uncertainty, whether it's being able to care for a child or to handle any important responsibility. Your willingness to try, despite your fears, without knowing the outcome, shows faith. Trust that God will see you through it.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 4:32-37; John 3:7b-15 (268)*. "There was no needy person among them ... the proceeds ... were distributed to each according to need."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 Light the way

As the days of Easter continue, the light of the Easter dawn shines brightly. That light revealed that Christ had risen and, in the light of day, called his disciples to go out and spread the Good News. God was living and breathing in them. As they shared their faith journeys, more and more light entered the world. By that light, we believe. And in the light of the Risen Christ, there is hope and freedom and grace. Today, see the light that shines within you. Tend the flames of mercy and find the Good News this day holds!

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:17-26; John 3:16-21 (269)*. "Whoever lives the truth comes to the light."

THURSDAY, APRIL 16 EASTER WEEKDAY Celebrate God's abundance

Scripture is replete with images of the abundance of God: from the widow of Zarephath receiving alabaster jars full of flour and oil to the miracle of water becoming wine at the wedding feast in Cana. How might this characteristic of God inform our own activities? What choices might we make in our relationships, at work, or standing in line at the grocery store? How might we live out of God's abundance even on those days or weeks or years of feeling like we have less than nothing? Let us nudge our alabaster jar toward God and trust that God will take care of the rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:27-33; John 3:31-36 (270)*. "God does not ration his gift of the Spirit."

FRIDAY, APRIL 17 FEAST OF KATERI TEKAKWITHA; EASTER WEEKDAY Things that go bump set us right

The smallpox Kateri suffered as a child left her with a scarred face and near blindness, hence her name Tekakwitha—"She who bumps into things," which seems cruel, but also might be a reminder of unpredictable grace. Years ago, when the bumper sticker "S*** happens" was popular, Bishop Richard Sklba countered such a defeatist attitude by reminding us that "Grace happens" too. What we bump into and what bumps into us every day are countless opportunities to wake up to God's grace at work. Maybe you will "bump into" a neighbor or stranger to whom you can be of some service today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 5:34-42; John 6:1-15 (271)*. "Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining."

SATURDAY, APRIL 18 Community with a capital "C"

The church is built on community. Together, the People of God welcome new members in Baptism, come together to be fed in the Eucharist, and witness faith proclaimed at Confirmation. Such community nurtures, supports, and affirms the universality and unity of church. When gathering around the table to celebrate, give thanks, and worship, it is helpful from time to time to look and see those around us. Who isn't present? Who isn't being served at the table? Who have I shut out? Our call is to spread the Good News . . . and sometimes the greatest news is that all are welcome.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:1-7; John 6:16-21 (272)*. "It is I. Do not be afraid."



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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