



Mary's Notes

Volume 2

April 2012

Thank You Jesus - Cindy Selby

How
could
people
witness
your life
and not
believe
you
were
who you
said?

Lord, I
do
believe,
help
my
unbelief.

Oh, dear Jesus, why did you have to die for us? When you raised the dead and made the blind to see, could they not see you as a great healer? When you told the stories of the kingdom, did they not see you as a speaker of truth? When you walked on water and were raised in the sky, did they not realize you could do great miracles? When you fed the multitude with a few loaves of bread and fish, surely they could see you were the long awaited Messiah who feeds the world with the true bread from heaven. How could people witness your life and not believe you were who you said? Is it because they were too comfortable in their life and resisted what your message would have them do? Were they afraid of what others might think? When you said they had to eat your body and drink your blood, did they think the Son of God was not great enough to make that happen in a very special way? When you said the kingdom is theirs that feed the hungry, clothe the poor, administer to the sick and visit the imprisoned, did they feel that was too difficult or that it was the job of the rich?

Lord, I admit how difficult it is to make changes to our way of thinking. To leave our comfort zone to help another who is less fortunate and to understand it is you we are receiving in Holy Communion and not a symbol. Even with all these new but difficult commands, you never left us without hope if we just believed. Clearly to live with you forever in the kingdom is worth every change and sacrifice.

Like the boy's father in the Gospel of Mark who cried, "Lord, I do believe, help my unbelief," I too have had my doubts along the way. But my heart would never let my head turn completely away.

I know I can't really say that I would have been numbered among the woman who followed you but I'd like to think I would have been. I hope I would not have been one who shouted "crucify him, crucify him," but in the heat of the moment, I don't know. I can't say if I would have been at the foot of the cross with your blessed Mother, Mary Magdalene or St. John, but I'd like to think I would have

suffered through your crucifixion with them.

I think I now know why you had to die for us. We are a sinful people stuck in our ways. Had you not come along, perhaps we wouldn't have seen the errors in our thinking and heaven would never have been opened. I'm sorry for my doubts and for adding my sins to the weight of your cross. Jesus, thank you for coming to earth and becoming our sin that was nailed to the cross of our shame. My dear Jesus, I do believe in You!



Sodality served
nearly 400
pro-life
marchers
returning from
the March in
Washington,
DC.



Where Has The Time Gone?

Unfortunately, the newsletter got slipped down to the bottom of the To Do list. We just wanted to let you know that even though a Mary's Notes has not been sent since August, we have been busy every month with an event. Most all have been well attended and most interesting.

In September, Father Gallagher offered a wonderful talk on "*John Paul II—the Feminist Pope.*" In October, we made a pilgrimage to Emmitsburg and to the Shrine of Mother Seton and also celebrated our annual Pot Luck Dinner. In November, Father Gallagher again was our speaker with his talk called, "*Is Hell Empty?*" December was our Christmas social where we viewed a documen-

tary on the Nativity. In January, members of Sodality served nearly 400 pro-life marchers a variety of prepared foods before they returned to their various parishes in other states. February's meeting was a video presentation on *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*. What a wonderful foundation we have in the Catholic Church. Our day of reflection titled, *Behold the Hearts*, brought Catholic evangelist and radio host, Kathleen McCarthy to us in March.

So you see, we have had a great line up of events! I hope you have been able to enjoy each of them as much as we have.

By the way....Sodality is looking for a "Few Good

Women" who are interested in becoming Sodalists. If you know anyone who would like to know more about their Catholic faith, how they can become active members of the parish, be a prayer warrior and commune with like minded women, please invite them to the Sodality information night on April 30 at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. At this meeting, we will discuss the origin of Sodality, the history at St. Mary's and the many events and opportunities with which St. Mary's Sodalists can involve themselves.

If you have been an active Sodalist and would like to hold an official position, please talk to Cindy Selby or Carole Day. Phone numbers are in the Parish Bulletin under Sodality.

The Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord—Barbara Williams

On Thursday, May 17, we will celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord. The Ascension is one of the Holy Days we celebrate during the Easter Season, and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is the event in which Jesus was taken into heaven after the resurrection, and it is also one of the five Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. After Jesus appeared several times following his resurrection, He had to return to His Father. We call Christ's return to the Father His Ascension. Jesus, risen from the dead, entered into a new life, one that

could not be limited to an earthly existence. That is why St. Luke said that Jesus "parted from them and was taken up to heaven" (Luke 24:51).

With the Ascension, Jesus was enthroned at the right hand of the Father, and there Jesus is our high priest, the one mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). This means that Jesus offers all of our prayers to the Father and why we pray at Mass, "Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and

ever. Amen."

People have spent years summarizing the wondrous events of Jesus' life, his teachings, and all he did for us out of love. However, we can summarize it all in one simple phrase: the paschal mystery—the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ. These are the most important events in our redemption, and through these events Jesus brought salvation to the whole world. Having entered the sanctuary of Heaven, Jesus constantly intercedes for us and assures us of the permanent outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Can You Hear This Baby Cry? - Kathleen McCarthy



The Father sent His own true son
To be born of Mary's womb.
And yet as Joseph and Mary searched
For this child there was no room.

How can this be, dear Joseph thought,
"no room for Yahweh's son?"
Dismayed and sad He tried again And
finally just this one.

A drafty damp and smelly stable
Where sheep and mules abide.
As Joseph looked with love at Mary
He wanted to give up and cry.

I know God will take care of you,
After all it is His Son.
But deep inside anxiety grew
For her time had finally come.

So tired and so wear now,
Concern showing on her face.
She looks about in disbelief
Can this stable be my birthing place?

Amidst the odor and the cold
Was born the King of kings.
Snuggled in His Mother's arms
For warmth against the winds.

This little tiny Holy Child
was truly "God Most High".
How could His mother comprehend
That for the world He would die?

I shall name this child "Jesus,"
Joseph was heard to say.
His heart swelled for love of Mary
As she laid Him in the hay.

This new born infant baby boy
Who was born of Mary's flesh
Had His little sacred heart
Tucked in His tiny chest.

Oh can you see Him yawning now
Or stretching in the manger?
This tiny boy of Mary's,
This tiny little stranger.

This little baby Jesus
With His charismatic heart
Had no place to rest His head
Right from the very start.

Mary kissed His outstretched hands
And caressed His little feet.
Being unaware of course,
That nails would pass through each.

This warm and tender baby boy
so flawless and unmarred
would one day hang upon a cross
Bloody, pain-racked and scarred.

Can you hear this baby cry?
He cries for you and I
For all the sins we will commit
For you and I He'll die.

He will do it so each of us will live
Forever, through His birth.
So we will never ever forget
What each of us is worth.

Sodality Christmas— Brigit Sullivan

Every year the St. Mary's Sodality stuffs stockings for children staying in shelters during the Christmas Season. This year, a hardy group of (about 12) Sodalists put together enough stockings to send to four local shelters: Avery House, Stepping Stones, Helping Hands and National Center for Children and Families.

Avery House is a halfway house offering drug and alcohol treatment for women and giving them and their children a place to stay. Stepping Stones Shelter has the tagline "Healing Homelessness, Step by Step." Helping Hands gives temporary emergency shelter to approximately 140 homeless women

and young children 365 days a year. The National Center for Children and Families offers the Greentree shelter which provides a transitional home for homeless families, especially children with single mothers.

This year the number of stockings put together in total was about 90. Sodality also gave additional items to Little Sisters of the Poor and the Interfaith Center.

For the last few years, Lois Hoff sewed most all of the stockings and the majority of the items for the stockings were donated by Joyce Halinan, a parishioner, who has donated hundreds of dollars for Sodal-

ity's stocking stuffers for the last several years!

The best part of stuffing was having enough items to try to get as much as possible in the stocking for each infant and each child.

For those mothers seeking safe shelter, the Sodalists knew nothing would brighten their hearts more than seeing their child(ren) smile on Christmas morning.

In a year without snow to conjure images of Christmas, the joy of putting together a stocking for a child, from infant age to teen years, made the reason for the season come into all the Sodalists' hearts.



Holy Saturday Homily

Below is a beautiful Holy Saturday ancient homily from the Divine Liturgy.

Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parent, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: “My Lord be with you all.” Christ answered him: “And with your spirit.” He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: “Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

I am your God, who for your sake have become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I am in you; together we form only one person and we cannot be separated.

For your sake I, your God, became your son; I, the Lord, took the form of a slave; I, whose home is above the heavens, descended to the earth and beneath the earth. For your sake, for the sake of man, I became like a man without help, free among the dead. For the sake of you, who left a garden, I was betrayed to the Jews in a garden, and I was crucified in a garden.

See on my face the spittle I received in order to restore to you the life I once breathed into you. See there the marks of the blows I received in order to refashion your warped nature in my image. On my back see the marks

of the scourging I endured to remove the burden of sin that weighs upon your back. See my hands, nailed firmly to a tree, for you who once wickedly stretched out your hand to a tree.

I slept on the cross and a sword pierced my side for you who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side has healed the pain in yours. My sleep will rouse you from your sleep in hell. The sword that pierced me has sheathed the sword that was turned against you.

Rise, let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise, but I will enthrone you in heaven. I forbade you the tree that was only a symbol of life, but see, I who am life itself am now one with you. I appointed cherubim to guard you as slaves are guarded, but now I make them worship you as God. The throne formed by cherubim awaits you, its bearers swift and eager. The bridal chamber is adorned, the banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The kingdom of heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.