



PRIESTLY FRATERNITY OF ST PETER

DISTRICT OF OCEANIA



Easter 2024

Dear Faithful,

“Regina Caeli, Laetare, Alleluia!”

There is one person whom our Lord most likely visited after His Resurrection, but about whom the scriptures are mysteriously silent: His Blessed Mother. She, who accompanied her beloved

Son from the Annunciation to the foot of the Cross, was most certainly not forgotten by Him on this most joyful and glorious night in all of human history. Indeed, St Vincent Ferrer writes: “Since, Scripture says, ‘Honour your father, and forget not the groaning of your mother’ (Sirach 7:29), Christ most perfectly kept the law of honouring parents. It follows that he appeared to his mother first, who was distressed more than all the others.” She undoubtedly suffered more than anyone else, but by the same token her joy in the presence of her risen Son would have been beyond human measure.

This Easter, as we celebrate the Risen Christ, let us not forget to invoke our Blessed Mother in our prayers. To entrust our fallen world to her maternal care and pray that she will intercede with her Son for us, and bring us finally to the joy that has no end.

“At the side of each of you there will always be Mary, as she was present among the apostles, frightened and confused at the time of trial. And with her faith she will show you, beyond the night of the world, the glorious dawn of the Resurrection.” — St John Paul II.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia. Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

May God bless you and your loved ones this Easter!

On another note, please keep in your prayers our upcoming General Chapter, which will be held from July 3 – 18 at our seminary in Nebraska. The General Chapter is held every six years, and is an opportunity to reflect on the mission and work of the FSSP, review the past six years, set goals for the future, and to elect a Superior General. Fr Sypher and I will be representing the Oceania District.

Please pray that we may follow the inspirations of the Holy Ghost.

Fr Michael McCaffrey FSSP
District Superior, District of Oceania

Meditation on the Pascal Mystery



The past three days has witnessed a continuous movement in our liturgical celebration of the suffering, death and Resurrection of our Lord, the momentum of which expresses very clearly the heart of our celebration – we have been celebrating, we are celebrating the Paschal Mystery, the Passover of the Lord, our Lord passing over, moving on from life to death, and from death to life again.

All this did not happen because our Lord was the victim of circumstances. As He tells us in the gospel of St John - I have the power to lay down my life, and I have the power to take it up again. Our Lord himself willed that he should go through every event continuously – he kept moving on, from his Agony in the Garden to the Scourging, to the interrogations, to the Crowning with thorns, to the carrying of the Cross, the Crucifixion, and lastly to the descent into Hell, to the Limbo of the Patriarchs.

No matter how tragic, how brutal, how demeaning, he kept moving on through his Passion, almost as if he was reaching for

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Meditation on the Pascal Mystery

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something, like an athlete, striving for the goal, for the trophy. And he did eventually reach the goal and seized the prize, the trophy of victory over death, over sin, over evil. He comes back to life, he who is the fulness of life, the Lord of life, the Son of the Living God.

In this celebration of the death and Resurrection of our Lord, we realize that there is no moment of human experience that has not been illumined by the grace of our Lord's experience of life himself. By being born, by living a life like ours, by suffering and dying, by rising again, our Lord has shown us their true meaning, and given us the grace to live these events ourselves in faith. It is not that we shall grasp or see the meaning

immediately, but rather, it is only when we have moved and walked through the night of tribulation with only the torchlight of perseverance and hope to guide us, that we pass through the darkness and arrive at the dawn, where the light of joy enlightens us, the light which shines on the face of our risen Lord. I conclude with the words of the author of the letter to the Hebrews (12:1-2):

Let us cast off every encumbrance, every sin to which we cling, and run with resolution the race for which we are entered, our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom faith depends from start to finish: Jesus who for the sake of the joy that lay ahead of him, endured the cross, making light of its disgrace, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Fr Adrian Wee FSSP



Photo by Giovanni Portelli

A Word from the District Bursar

After lifting up our minds to holy things during Lent, the Church is prompt to remind us in the Easter Vigil not to let our thoughts be dragged back down to earth.

On one hand, this is a warning against the futility of being materialistic and focussing all of one's efforts on empty material goods, with no thought for eternity. On the other hand, it is a reminder that we were not made for this world and that death can come at any time, and therefore we should make sure our spiritual and material affairs are in order.

In this regard, we do well to make our desires known to family and friends concerning the great importance of receiving the last rites in a timely manner, having a Catholic funeral and burial, and asking for prayers and Masses to be offered for the repose of our soul.

Moreover, the parable of the unjust steward reminds us of the obligation to use God's gifts responsibly. And since we "can't take it with us", we should also make sure to consider what would be most pleasing to God in the distribution of our earthly possessions after death.

Our first obligation is to see that our family members be sufficiently provided for in our Will, in accordance with the

needs of each. But thereafter, we should consider how the remainder of our goods can be applied to most effectively advance the kingdom of Christ.

As an example, our novitiate house in Sydney was purchased largely by means of one generous bequest. Consider the abundant fruit which has come from that bequest.

Therefore, we humbly ask you to remember the FSSP in your Will, even if it be only in some small way. (Feel free to contact us if you have any questions in this regard.)

Every First Friday, Holy Mass is offered for all of our benefactors, including deceased benefactors. This not only shows our gratitude but also gives us the joy of repaying each of you with an abundance of spiritual blessings in return.

Therefore, having completed our Lenten penances, let us continue to lift up our hearts to the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, until He shall come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Fr Damonn Sypher FSSP
District Bursar

The bequest form can be found on our website or ask one of our priests: www.fssp.net/donate

Audience with the Pope



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Official communiqué of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter

Following a request from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, Pope Francis invited Fr. Andrzej Komorowski, Superior General of the FSSP, to meet with him. He received him in private audience at the Vatican on Thursday, February 29, 2024, accompanied by Fr. Benoît Paul-Joseph, Superior of the District of France, and Fr. Vincent Ribeton, Rector of St. Peter's Seminary in Wigratzbad.

The meeting was an opportunity for them to express their deep gratitude to the Holy Father for the decree of February 11, 2022, by which the Pope confirmed the liturgical specificity of the Fraternity of St. Peter, but also to share with him the difficulties encountered in its application. The Pope was very understanding and invited the Fraternity of St. Peter to continue to build up ecclesial communion ever more fully through its own proper charism. Fr. Komorowski informed the Holy Father that the decree of February 11, 2022 had been given on the very day of the Fraternity of St. Peter's consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Holy Father hailed this coincidence as a providential sign.



Above: Former Superior Generals Fr Josef Bisig and Fr John Berg meet with Popes John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI

Upcoming RETREATS

For Men

April 17 - 19. The Contemplation of Christ in the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola

November 11 - 15. Journey through the Interior Castle of St Teresa of Avila

For Women

**September 13 - 17.
Benedictine Spirituality for Laity**

Retreats are held at Hartzler Park Retreat Centre, Bowral. To register please contact Fr Adrian Wee FSSP: theoudoulos@gmail.com



Ordination to the Priesthood

Please keep in your prayers Rev. Mr. Jeremy Chua FSSP who will be ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 2024.

Originally from Singapore, Rev. Mr Chua has previously served in our District for Holy Week as a deacon. We await the decision of the Superior General regarding which District of the FSSP he will serve in after his ordination.

Below: The priests of the District on an excursion in Parramatta after a recent District Meeting.



For more information about the Priestly Fraternity of St Peter please visit our website fssp.net or contact us via email at enquiries@fssp.net or phone (02) 9688 4287