

THE Aquinas Way

Greetings, Theological Reflections and Spiritual Resources
during the COVID-19 Pandemic

“Christ my hope is arisen!”

BULLETIN III – APRIL 13, 2020

Greetings from Erin Hammond, Class of 2011 Registrar, Aquinas Institute of Theology

April 13, 2020
Easter Monday

Dear Members of the Aquinas Community,

Happy Easter!

I know that for many of us, Easter feels far from joyful and hope-filled. Instead, many of us are worried about loss of income and livelihood, are fearful for the health and safety of our loved ones, and are feeling isolated and alone.

This year, I am reminded of Easter 2008. At the time, my husband and I were both full-time students at Aquinas. We were immersed in studies of Christology, sacramentality, eschatology, and all of the other riches of theology. We were ready to enter into holy week with an enriched understanding of the beauty and sacrifice of what was to come. My husband was the director of music and liturgy at a national shrine, which held large liturgical celebrations every day of holy week with thousands of pilgrims in attendance. It was Monday of holy week that year that my mother-in-law passed away.

We traveled to my husband’s hometown in rural Minnesota to spend Holy Week. Since it was Holy Week, we had to wait to hold the funeral mass until Easter Monday. So, we spent the week with my father-in-law and family comforting each other, making necessary preparations, and attending the triduum liturgies.

Holy Week in rural Minnesota was quite different to what we had become used to at home. Small liturgies of a couple hundred people, a single priest, and a few volunteer music ministers. I think we can all relate to experiencing something normal and routine in the midst of new and different surroundings.

Mourning our family’s loss while mourning the death and crucifixion of Christ was poignant. It didn’t matter that our



experience was so different than what it normally would be. We were able to bring new understanding and meaning to these liturgies. Our studies at Aquinas, our own personal experience of death, and a new “normal” – combined with the experience of these solemn liturgies – allowed us to more fully enter into the paschal mystery.

I will never forget the feelings of joy and hope I experienced at the funeral mass. We experienced the resurrection in such an immediate and real way that year. We were mourning our loss, yet able to feel joy in my mother-in-law’s return to Christ and in our hope of following ourselves someday.

I know how it sounds when I say that one of the most joyful experiences of my life was my mother-in-law’s funeral. I think she would love it and be happy to be in on the joke.

My prayer for all of us this Easter is for the season to bring us hope and glimpses of joy in light of whatever fears and doubts we are facing in this new normal.

In Christ and St. Dominic,

Erin Hammond
REGISTRAR, CLASS OF 2011

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

EASTER SUNDAY SEQUENCE

Victimae Paschali Laudes

In the Roman Catholic Church, the Victimae Paschali Laudes (Praise the Pascal Victim) is the only surviving sequence proscribed for use on Easter Sunday. Its text has been attributed to several figures, including Wipo of Burgundy (eleventh century), Robert II of France (tenth century), and Notker Balbulus (tenth century). Preserved by the Council of Trent (1545-1563), this ancient chant tells the story of Mary Magdalene, who upon finding the empty tomb of the risen Christ and seeing the cast aside garments, proclaims, “Christ my hope has arisen.”

Three different arrangements of this hauntingly beautiful liturgical hymn are below.

Victimae Paschali Laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!

A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.

Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.

Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.

“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.

Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you.”

Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.

Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!

Amen. Alleluia.



Christ is Arisen, DeBruyn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjoDUx7cUto>

Victimae Paschali Laudes at Notre Dame de Paris

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zISK8vn55ZA>

Victimae Paschali (Gregoriano) - Cappella Sistina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JebnCOkMf8M>

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Easter Season Resources

Resources for families to celebrate the Easter season are available through Loyola Press:

www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/easter

07 APRIL 2020, THE TABLET

A leading Dominican on life in lockdown Britain by Timothy Radcliffe:

<https://www.thetablet.co.uk/features/2/17843/a-leading-dominican-on-life-in-lockdown-britain>

COVID-19 Resources from The Catholic Health Association

The Catholic Health Association of the United States has created a list of COVID-19 resources which provide information regarding bioethics, palliative care, pastoral care, spiritual resources, and a wealth of credible resources for anyone with questions about this pandemic. <https://www.chausa.org/newsroom/coronavirus-resources/spiritual-resources-for-covid-19>

<https://www.chausa.org/newsroom/coronavirus-resources>

COVID-19 Resources from The US Conference of Catholic Bishops

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provides a page of resources for Catholic at home during the COVID-19 crisis. <http://www.usccb.org/about/communications/resources-for-catholics-at-home-during-covid-19.cfm>

Free Formational Events

The National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers has a collection of one-hour formational events presented free to ministry leaders and volunteers as part of their mission to support and strengthen those who accompany young people as they encounter and follow Jesus Christ. <https://nfcym.org/resources/webinars/>

Family Resources to Pray Together from Home

The United States Association of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides a wonderful page of resources for parents and families to pray together from home. <https://www.cgsusa.org/homepage/covid-19-response/>

“Christianity in a Time of Sickness”

Article by Tomas Halik in *America* magazine, April 3, 2020. <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/04/03/christianity-time-sickness>

Friarly.com

This project is a collaborative effort of the Dominican Student Brothers of St. Dominic Priory in St. Louis, Missouri. The COVID-19 resource page offers a number prayer and liturgical resources including the daily preaching by one of the Dominican friars. <https://www.friarly.com/covid-19-resources.html>

Today’s Word of Hope

Daily reflections during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis offered by Fr. James Marchionda, OP, Provincial of the Dominican Central Province of St. Albert the Great. <http://opcentral.org/blog/category/a-word-of-hope/>

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

Reflections from Fr. Cristobal Torres, OP

Fr. Cristobal a graduate of Aquinas Institute of Theology and a friar from the Southern Province of St. Martin de Porres. He serves as University Chaplain at Barry University and offers a short daily reflection on the Barry University Campus Ministry Facebook page.

[https://www.facebook.com/BU CampusMinistry-349344799134160/?__xts__\[0\]=68 ARBOWII2gjdPelkEmHHgQMood8IjgCVT_AT_gRtulzID0rbj28Z2YaEaglZDk5Odm6Apy239HOn_CtngrYqdnT-E96QbTCfR5dKSoXTSYsok0CwjfJfnW7AHCmK_8aPbKf8GnUfKQl8c7fyCLf2r41sgxswFBt_k-A7slec96aRwuLrJGVIDKwVUqdigzK_vvj0qk9H-DwohcZadSaA3Lf8CELT3JzKRPhODKdV3ihotE-mKzpTjH2wfUWAWXgfHtNq9RIvp2ZcSSMX19DecmTOuuc-5sT-3LbgcX7Mr7EbnUUNEI5FjsyJXXYVeb8N47SjAaugXvnZbGZzIVWrvI99UvGqF2n4SGWcNNY](https://www.facebook.com/BU CampusMinistry-349344799134160/?__xts__[0]=68 ARBOWII2gjdPelkEmHHgQMood8IjgCVT_AT_gRtulzID0rbj28Z2YaEaglZDk5Odm6Apy239HOn_CtngrYqdnT-E96QbTCfR5dKSoXTSYsok0CwjfJfnW7AHCmK_8aPbKf8GnUfKQl8c7fyCLf2r41sgxswFBt_k-A7slec96aRwuLrJGVIDKwVUqdigzK_vvj0qk9H-DwohcZadSaA3Lf8CELT3JzKRPhODKdV3ihotE-mKzpTjH2wfUWAWXgfHtNq9RIvp2ZcSSMX19DecmTOuuc-5sT-3LbgcX7Mr7EbnUUNEI5FjsyJXXYVeb8N47SjAaugXvnZbGZzIVWrvI99UvGqF2n4SGWcNNY)

CHURCH: Catholics Helping Us Reach Catholics at Home

This is a public Facebook group facilitated by Firebrand+ (created by Aquinas graduate, Jared Bryson, and his business partner, Katie O'Brien Pesha). The CHURCH group is a portal to see how people are sharing our faith in unique ways during this unprecedented time. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2421826451252058/>

“Spirituality for a Time of Scarcity” by Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP

Former Aquinas Institute President, Charles Bouchard, OP is the senior director of theology and ethics at the Catholic Health Association of the United States. This article, “Spirituality for a Time of Scarcity” was recently published in the National Catholic Reporter. <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/spirituality-time-scarcity>

From Liturgical Press

Complimentary access to the April digital editions of ‘Give Us This Day,’ a daily prayer resource with scripture reflections, inspiration from the lives of saints, and simplified morning and evening prayer.

<https://offers.giveusthisday.org/free-resources>

Please share your comments and suggestions with

Erin Hammond at registrar@ai.edu

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. ROMANS 8:38-39