

# GOSPEL REFLECTION

## GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE YOURSELF TO A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE



A person was going through a very dark time, questioning the meaning of life, not feeling very purposeful or worthwhile, and feeling disconnected and unappreciated. Suddenly, they gazed up at the night sky, found themselves in awe of all the stars and constellations, and exclaimed, "I am here on purpose and I am loved!" Having been brought by God to this moment of intense connection and awareness, his life changed from that moment on. If we are always preoccupied with the challenges, obligations, and

stuff of daily life, we can easily miss the wonderful opportunities when the resurrected Christ is knocking at our door. If we open ourselves to the fullness of experience, we will find ourselves listening and embracing all that is around us, being caught up in the magnificence of creation's grandeur and knowing in our heart and soul that God is and I am. While that sounds like a simple, tell-me-something-I don't-know kind of revelation, it is life changing when it takes root in the depth of a person's soul. Stumbling upon this awesome truth and internalizing it doesn't require an assent of the mind. It beckons for a claim on our soul. We find ourselves knowing something profound that cannot be explained or reasoned, but purely is. When we are caught up in an experience and encounter the truth, it doesn't matter how all of the pieces got put together. Truth is simply truth. The "my Lord and my God" responses we utter are not evoked because all of the pieces of faith and life make reasonable sense. The "my Lord and my God" affirmations come when we are lifted up out of our preoccupations and silliness and are in the presence of mystery and mercy. God is mystery, one who is beyond our grasp but at the same time within our reach, knowable yet unknowable. And when in the presence of mystery, there comes an intense experience of mercy. We know deep within the essence of ourselves — and in the very life of creation — this beating, unconditionally accepting, life-sustaining, profound, mysterious yet familiar presence of love. We have found our peace. "Peace be with you." Breathe in and breathe out.

WEEKLY STEWARSHIP	
April 12, 2020	
Envelope Giving	\$6,320
Plate Giving	
Online Giving	\$2,544.41
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,864.41</b>
Funds needed a week to meet operations	\$5,000
<b>Overage/Deficit</b>	<b>(\$3,864.41)</b>

### Request for Prayers

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Bill Gray              | Julian Lorenzo       |
| Leonardo Cepeda        | Helen & Buriel Smith |
| Sandra Altomare        | Brigida McInvale     |
| Ignacio Bladimir Perez | Isela Gonzalez       |
| Maria Gonzales         | David Parra          |
| Edward Mazano          | Brianna Parra        |
| Joanne Hunt            | Elisha Parra         |
| Socorro Martinez       | Jennifer Martinez    |
| Ruth Ramirez           | Cristina Serrano     |
| Fran Dreis             |                      |



## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP Give Yourself Completely

The early days of the first Christian community were not easy by any measurement. Jesus had been executed, and his disciples had to be discreet so as not to meet a similar fate. Jesus was now risen, but the truth of his resurrection was not accepted by all. However, the depiction of that early community in Acts 2:42-47 would lead someone to believe it was the opposite situation. We are told of community life where people lean on each other and share great joy. They ate and prayed together, and many wonders and signs were occurring to lift the community and bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ. They were disciples living out their faith, and it was their strong sense of stewardship that made all this possible in the face of threatening Roman and Jewish powers. Today, we find the Church in a new turmoil. Increasing secularism, abuse scandals, and a lack of true fidelity place us once again in a time that is not easy. A friend of mine likes to say that any challenge of sin we encounter in the Church has its origin in a lack or misunderstanding of the stewardship way of life. We create our burdens by not using our gifts wisely and by turning inward selfishly. Could we use the story in Acts of the early Church to help us today? If we begin with the decision to give of ourselves completely to God and His people, will we become agents of change? There is only one way to find out.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## II SUNDAY OF EASTER

# April EVENTS 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mass 9:00am English Misa 11:00am Español PALM SUNDAY	6	7	8	HOLY THURSDAY 6:00PM 	3:00pm English Good Friday 6:00pm Spanish 	Easter Vigil 7:00pm
Mass 9:00am English Misa 11:00am Español HE LIVES!	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mass 9:00am English Misa 11:00am Español	20	21	22	23	24	25
Mass 9:00am English Misa 11:00am Español	27	28	29	30		
						ABBREVIATIONS: K of C- Knights of Columbus GOLF - Generations of Living Faith MMLG - Mother Mary's Ladies Guild

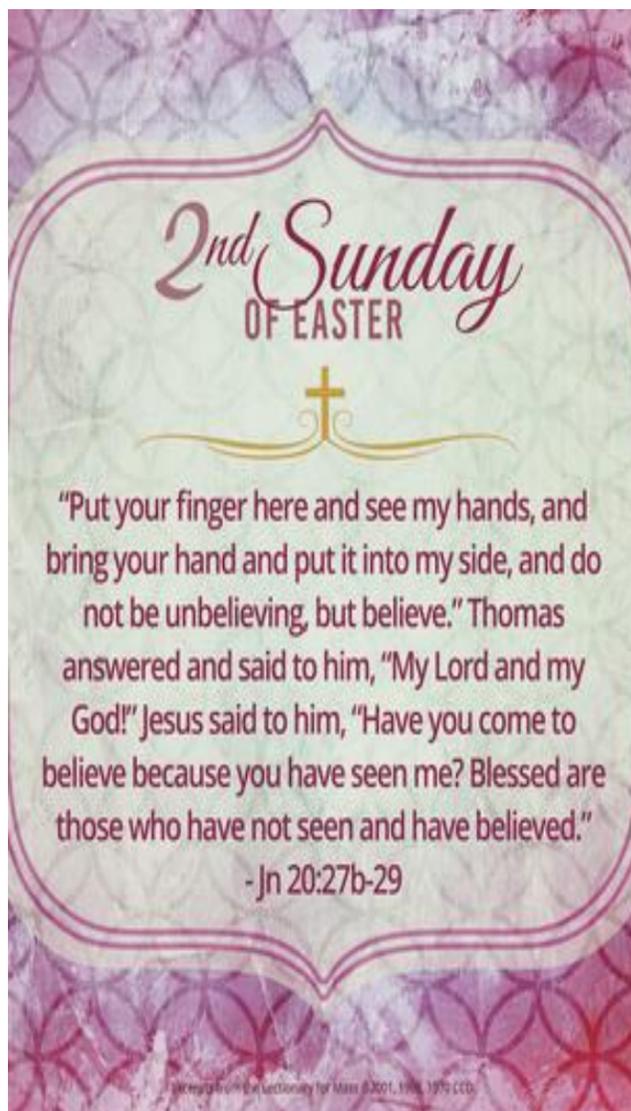
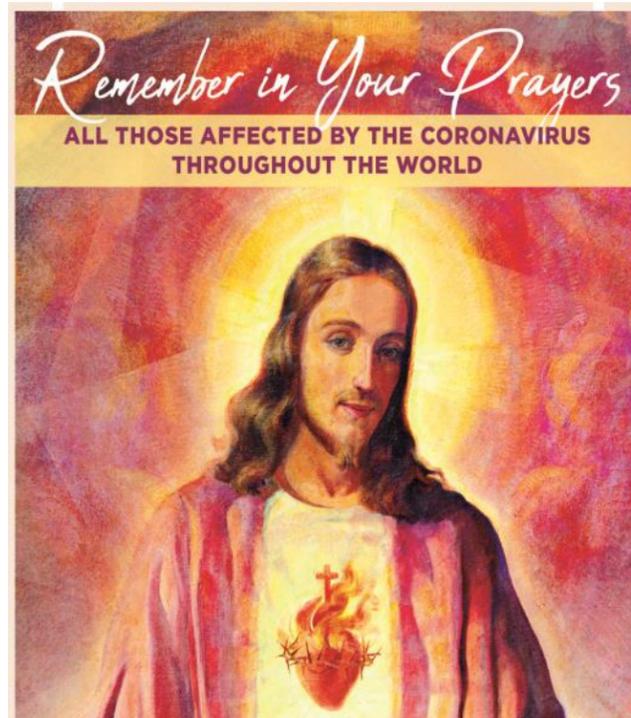
# Why do we do that? Discerning Vocations

**Question:**  
What does it mean to discern a vocation?

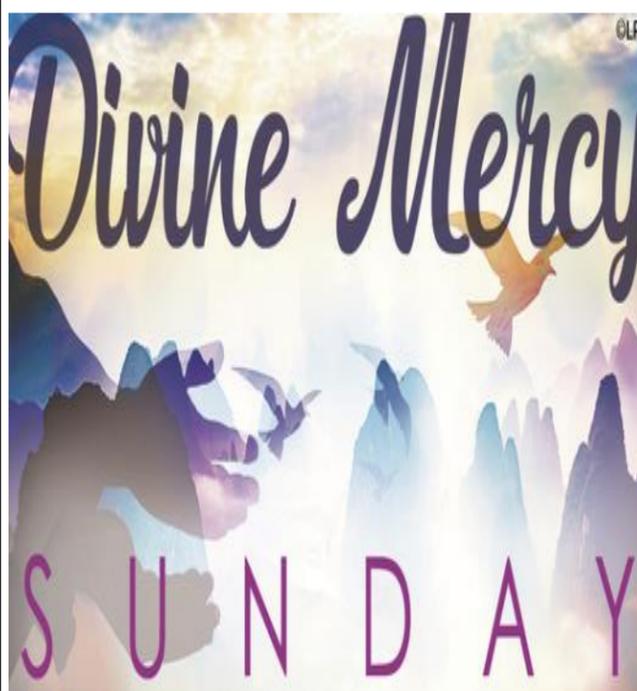
**Answer:**  
The word vocation comes from the Latin word vocare, meaning "to call." A vocation is a calling or invitation from God to serve in a particular way. For Catholics, that calling might be as a priest, sister, or married person. Vocation is the way we respond to the invitation to share in God's grace and witness to God's love in the world.

Discerning a vocation is the process in which we pray for God's guidance. We listen for God's message that is often quiet and unassuming in a world filled with noise and distractions. We look at our gifts and talents, seek the advice of others, examine our motives, and listen to see what God is asking of us. The goal of discernment is to follow what the Lord wills, not what we think is the best idea. Many men enter a seminary to discern if that is their vocation, only to discover that their calling is to marriage. Others have resisted the idea for long periods of time, until finally they could resist no more. Some great saints have described that dilemma. Vocation is a human process of divine origin, and each of us must strive constantly to hear the call of God in our lives.

©LPi



19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Pray for Rev. Eduardo Bernardino</b> Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31	<b>Pray for Rev. Ronald Bagley, CJM</b> Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8	<b>Pray for Rev. Msgr. William Bogler</b> Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd -2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15	<b>Pray for Rev. Michael Booth</b> Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21	<b>Pray for Rev. Peter Bosque</b> Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36	<b>Pray for Rev. Burt Boudoin</b> Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15	<b>Pray for Rev. Msgr. Lloyd Bourgeois</b> 1 Pt 5:5b-14/Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 [2]/Mk 16:15-20



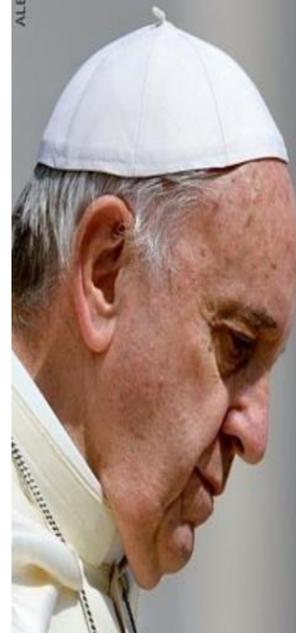
**Observances for the week of April 19, 2020**  
 Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday  
 Monday:  
 Tuesday: St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
 Wednesday: Earth Day  
 Thursday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr  
 Friday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; Arbor Day  
 Saturday: St. Mark, Evangelist



**LIVE THE LITURGY**  
 Have you ever experienced awe? Awe is commonly defined as a feeling of reverential respect mixed with fear or wonder. A moment of awe has the ability to lift us up out of ourselves and immerse us into something that causes us to wonder about ourselves, the meaning of life, and truth. Awe is an experience of connection that links us to something that is beyond the normal happenings of life. For us who believe that the resurrected Christ is present in all of life and the totality of the universe, being touched by awe can lead us to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!" Pondering the vastness of God's presence also brings us to a profound sense of God's mercy, which is the showering of His unconditional love on each of His daughters and sons. When we internalize this mystery, we may find ourselves standing in awe once again and feeling an intense sense of peace.  
 ©LPi

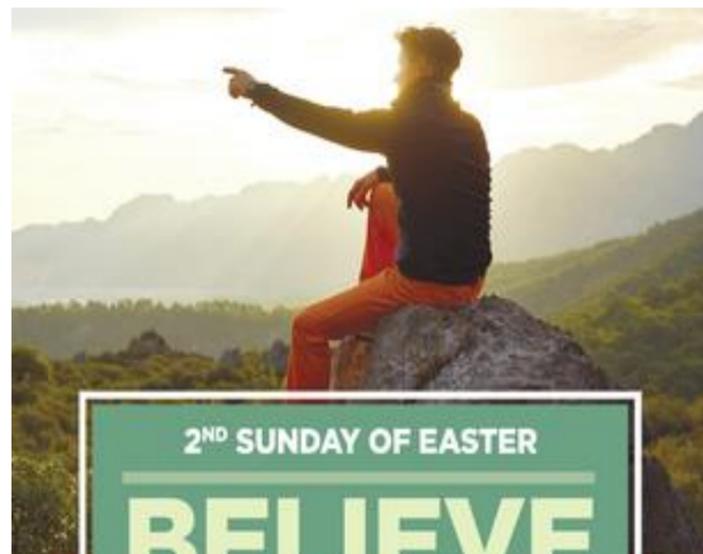
**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**  
**First Reading**  
 According to Luke, the original community of believers in Jerusalem met daily to pray, break bread, and commit themselves to the teaching of the Apostles. When have you experienced a similar level of communal harmony?  
**Second Reading**  
 The First Letter of Peter opens with a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings received from the resurrection of Jesus. In what ways do you show gratitude for Jesus' resurrection from the dead?  
**Gospel Reading**  
 John is the only evangelist to record the episode of Thomas' initial doubt in Jesus' resurrection. What role does doubt have in your spiritual journey?

ALBERTO PIZZOLI VIA GETTY



The Earth "is protesting for the wrong that we are doing to her, because of the irresponsible use and abuse of the goods that God has placed on her."

- Pope Francis



2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

**BELIEVE**

Then he 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." —Jn 20:27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



**Our ACA Parish Goal for 2020 is \$38,000.00. so far we have a pledged amount of \$21,135 with \$13,875.94 as an Actual paid to date amount.**  
**Help us reach our goal for 2020 Turn in your pledge today!**

*A generous heart, kind speech and a life of service and compassion are the things that renew Humanity.*

MAY GOD BLESS:

- Robert Smull
- Patricia Konja
- Rodney Snow
- Leonard & Cyndie Dasho
- Joe & Linda Coppola
- Ray & Shelly Dexter
- Desmond & Rosa Fonseca
- James M & LaNelle Johnson
- Robert & Kimberly Perry
- Joe Toland
- Paul Ziegler
- Phyllis Antoine
- Gerald & Annette Antoine
- Rick & Roseann Rinear
- Eugene & Karen Bennett
- Cesar & Adriana Garcia
- Mary Altomare
- Pat Ray
- Jose & Alma Olivares
- Pat Nybo
- Elman & Socorro Martinez
- Javier Bravo
- David & Paula Block
- Arnold & Isabel Gerhardtstein
- Laura Schneider
- Tom & Tammy Knapp
- Paul & Linda Wargo
- Barbara Boes
- Richard & Chelita Flores
- Ernest & Eileen Briesse
- Bill & Roxanna Martes
- Aide Arredondo
- Terry & carmen Carroll
- Silverio & Sandra Chavez
- Bob & Marty Fowler
- Ed & Ana Knudsen
- Tom & Theresa Mascarenas
- Al & Cindy Peterson
- Lilian Tatar
- Patricia Terry



Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he 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." — Jn 20:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

APRIL 19, 2020 II SUNDAY OF EASTER

**Prayer for the Sick**

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for all those affected by the coronavirus, for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need during this pandemic times. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find health and deliverance, and so join is in thanking you for all your gifts, We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.



"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." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." — Jn 20:27b-29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

