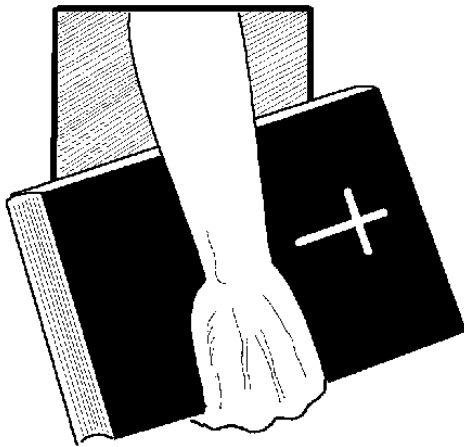


OUR LADY OF ANGELS

LITURGY NEWSLETTER

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TURN TO SCRIPTURE



Sometimes when you listen to the news you can become very frightened. We have not had a war on our shores in over one hundred years and we were sure our border oceans would keep us isolated from battle. Then comes September 11, 2001 and our security is shattered. So, how does one adjust to this changing world when even New York's Time Square isn't safe from terror. The answer is always the same - turn to

the Word of God.

When Jesus walked the earth times were also treacherous. Rome was a cruel ruler and no one dared to defy her and live. Roman soldiers could not be challenged and Palestinians had no rights. Roman soldiers could commandeer anything they desired. The Holy Family was good subjects but there must have been some fear in each of them whenever they encountered Rome. Perhaps the Christ Child wondered about their power and authority? Even after the death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Rome continued her dominance. In the year 70AD about 15 years before the Gospel of Matthew was written, Rome had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem and Jewish life

was changed forever. Matthew's community was trying to figure out their relationship to the Jews who had not accepted Jesus. They wanted to live in peace with Roman occupiers and also cope with the tensions within the entire Jewish community.

Matthew in his Gospel explains several ways to deal with this adversity. For, Jesus teaches His disciples not to retaliate against violence but to respond with a positive act that can break the cycle of violence. Concrete deeds such as praying for persecutors and welcoming outsiders are ways of retaliating positively and fulfilling Jesus command to love our enemies.

Today too, we can get very discouraged when we see so much secularization in our society. Belief in God is not a subject people want to discuss. For, no matter how hard we try our efforts may seem to fall on deaf ears. At

first in the Parable of the Sower, in Matthew it may seem that good seed is wasted in that only "good ground" shows immediate growth. But with faith in the Holy Spirit, we hope that the good seed, our prayer and actions will bear fruit eventually. For God works in mysterious ways and something taught, said or given may eventually be the cause of great blessings. And, when we really care for our neighbor and provide for the poor, we are imitating the love of Christ for His children.

However, Matthew also shows that the one of the greatest lessons of Jesus is in forgiveness. For, we must forgive just as we have been forgiven. This requires real humility and we all know it is not easy.

When all is said and done, the only way to attain peace in this turbulent world is to grow closer and closer to

Jesus Christ. For with the deep realization of His presence with us and love for us, we can deal with this chaotic world. So by prayer, Mass, Scripture and the Sacraments we can learn to imitate Jesus Christ and live by His Words. Read the Scriptures! You will be comforted!

THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Paul Turner

We often call the responsorial psalm the "response" to the first reading. That's true, but it's really "responsorial" since it has a responsory - a refrain that occurs with each verse.

The psalm is indeed a response or a comment on the first reading. In ordinary time, the Gospel text we hear falls in the Bible somewhere between last Sunday's Gospel passage and next Sunday's

Gospel. The first reading leaps from some place in the Old Testament because its theme resembles the Gospel. The psalm echoes the reading we just heard. It's sort of a grandchild to Sunday's Gospel.

In the Book of Psalms, very few psalms have a refrain. (See Psalms 46 & 67, for example.) But on Sundays, we treat them all alike. We give them refrains, and we put them in the mouths of our assemblies, often changing them into first person.

The refrains that appear in the lectionary, incidentally, are part of the official texts of the Mass. The verses may be drawn from a different translation. Refrains now generally match the wording in the verses.

We have quite a bit of freedom with the psalm. Since psalms were written as songs, the church urges us to sing them at every Mass. But because some assemblies

struggle with new music, they can learn one or a few psalms for a whole season. Although easier to sing, their rapport with the first reading may suffer.

Jesus, a good Jew, surely prayed the psalms daily. Many passages of the New Testament quote the psalms to show their fulfillment in the life of Christ. And they have proven useful for prayer in virtually every culture and age of history.

We also have freedom to change the structure of the psalm. It doesn't have to be responsorial. We can sing it all together, like a hymn.

Listen carefully to the first reading and figure out its construction to the psalm. Then we can really pray the psalm while we sing.



OLA'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

We hope you have always appreciated our stained glass windows. So, we thought you might enjoy knowing more about them.

Since in the early days of the Church few people could read stained glass windows were introduced to teach the people about their faith. Artisans created windows depicting stories from Scripture to share the faith with all those who could not

read.

In our church the two windows in the sanctuary show two such stories from the New Testament. The window on the left facing the altar depicts the Good Shepherd carrying a lamb in His arms. The one on the right of the altar is entitled "The Road to Emmaus" and depicts the two travelers at supper with the Risen Christ.

The side chapel window is a depiction of Christ The King. Also, in this chapel are four smaller windows. A long time parishioner told Monsignor Noone that these windows came from the original church.

In the body of the church are twelve windows dedicated to the apostles, each window having five large sections. The first two sections contain an image of the apostle while the third section contains a line from the Apostles Creed. The fourth section has a

quote from the New Testament that is attributed to that apostle and the final section has the name of the Apostle. On the side of some of the windows is a symbol of connected to that apostle. Some indicate how the apostle met his death.

THE JESUIT GUIDE TO
(ALMOST) EVERYTHING:
SPIRITUALITY FOR REAL
LIFE

By James Martin, SJ

For those of you who read My Life with the Saints and A Jesuit Off Broadway, you are in for a real treat when you read this latest book by James Martin. Even if you have not read any of Martin's books you will still enjoy this book.

This is a book showing how to live a God-centered life. And as Father Martin says in chapter one, you do not have to be a priest, religious,

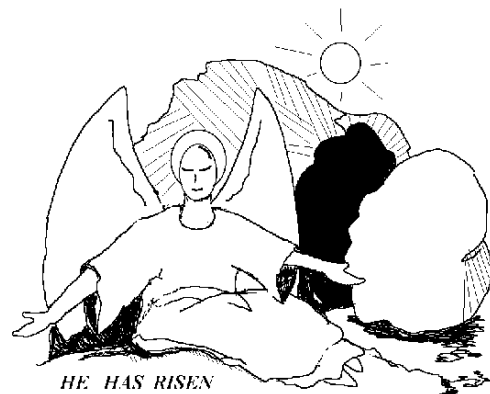
layperson or even a Catholic to profit by this book. Martin explains the way of St. Ignatius, the Jesuit way, in beautiful, easy, modern language with jokes, anecdotes and his own personal stories to illustrate the path to holiness and happiness.

If you are already familiar with Jesuit spirituality you can doubtless still learn more about it. I guarantee you will. And, if you are not familiar with the Ignatian way, you will definitely enjoy and profit from Martin's explanation. This book is a spiritual treasure to be kept and referred to for a lifetime.

You may obtain this book at your local library. Ask them to order it for you. Or, you may purchase it at a book store or order on line at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com. Happy reading and happy praying!

THOUGHT TO PONDER

The task ahead of us is never as great as the POWER behind us.



THINK ABOUT IT!