

BITS & PIECES AT EASTER

“The risen Christ is hope for all who continue to suffer from the pandemic, both the sick and those who have lost a loved one. May the Lord give them comfort and sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses... The crucified and risen Lord is comfort for those who have lost their jobs or experience serious economic difficulties and lack adequate social protection... The risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint.”

Pope Francis

Reflection

Concerning Peace

He said only: “Peace,” and “Do not be afraid,” and in all appearances to the group of them there is mention of forgiveness. He came and he forgave. They are said to have experienced a joy so great that they could not believe it.

Do you see it? Do you grasp it? The resurrection was terrific. But when they heard about it, they were terrified. What was he going to do? He came and he forgave. They were saved, they were reassured, they were rescued, they would live on.

He did not allow them to live on just like that. Their salvation was not going to remain as empty as his tomb. Their salvation had to be filled up. They had to repent. They had to turn to God. They had to build a human community. They had to love each other. They had to go out and preach, not only the resurrection, perhaps not even so much that resurrection, but the forgiveness of sins. They had to go out, to realize in this world the message he had brought them from the world he came from: *peace*.

A peace that can be based only on justice in the present and on justice in the future, a peace that can be built only on forgiving the past. A peace that is a personal concern, a justice that is a personal concern. A peace that is a common concern and a justice that is a common concern, because they are the rock on which God’s kingdom will be built.

Fr. Joseph Donders, *Jesus the Stranger*

Ecological Consciousness



