

# **CELEBRATE EASTER**

## **Friday, Second Week of Easter**

**Serenity is found in the acceptance of what is  
and the release of what was.**

### **Acts 5:34-42**

The members of Sanhedrin prepared themselves to punish the disciples for their disobedience. One of the members advised them to leave the disciples alone. He said that if their message came from God, no one could stop it and if it came from some other source, it would destroy itself. The Sanhedrin called the disciples and had them whipped and sent them away ordering them not speak about Jesus.

**The apostles continued to proclaim the good news accepting all insults and punishments with great joy.**

### **Psalm 27**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
Whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life's refuge;  
Of whom should I be afraid?**

### **John 6:1-15**

**John recounted the miracle of the loaves. Dwell on each of the following thoughts and listen to what the Lord is saying to you now:**

Jesus with great compassion called the disciples to feed the hungry crowd...

He has been feeding them with the WORD, now he must feed them with BREAD...

The disciples expressed their helplessness in a lonely place with five thousand men to feed, not counting women and children...

Jesus accepted five loaves and couple of dried fish from a boy and this simple gift became abundance, food for many and even left over...

Jesus instructed them not to waste anything. But gather the leftover and cherish every bit of blessings...

Jesus, realizing that they were going to force him to be their king, withdrew to the mountain alone...

**Saint of the Day, April 17 - St. Benedict Joseph Labre and 13 other saints are remembered this day.**

Benedict Joseph Labre was born on March 25, 1748 in the village of Amettes, in northern France. He was the eldest of fifteen children of a prosperous shopkeeper, Jean-Baptiste Labre, and his wife, Anne Grandsire. At the age of sixteen, he approached his uncle, a parish priest, about becoming a Trappist monk, but his parents told him he would have to wait until he grew older. When Benedict was about eighteen, an epidemic fell upon the city, and uncle and nephew busied themselves in the service of the sick. While the uncle took care of the souls and bodies of the people, Benedict cared for the cattle. His uncle was among the last victims of the epidemic.

Benedict Joseph Labre tried to join the religious orders of the Trappists, the Carthusians and the Cistercians, but did not come up to their requirements. He was under age, he was too delicate; he had no special recommendations. Then, at age 18, a profound change took place. Benedict lost his desire to study and gave up all thoughts of the priesthood. He became a pilgrim, traveling from one great shrine to another, living off alms. He wore the rags of a beggar and shared his food with the poor. Filled with the love of God and neighbor, Benedict had special devotion to the Blessed Mother and to the Blessed Sacrament. In Rome, where he lived in the Colosseum for a time, he was called "the poor man of the Forty Hours devotion" and "the beggar of Rome." The people accepted his ragged appearance better than he did. His excuse to himself was that "our comfort is not in this world."

On April 16, 1783, the last day of his life, Benedict dragged himself to a church in Rome and prayed there for two hours before he collapsed, dying peacefully in a nearby house. Immediately after his death, the people proclaimed him a saint. Benedict Joseph Labre was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1881.

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