

HOLY SATURDAY

When you are purposeful, your mind transcends limitations and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world.

Waiting at the tomb.....

Journey through Lent has brought us to the tomb of Jesus. We want the tomb to release its contents! We want Jesus to come forth, but we must wait...three days!

Jesus did die and was buried in a tomb. Jesus had told us that His Father is a Caring, Loving, Faithful, and Searching Father. His WORD that became flesh also experienced death. The Love of the Father was so great that he did not spare His Son our death. The Journey to Jerusalem did not stop at the Cross - it continued into the tomb and beyond. The mystery of hope unfolds before the tomb holding Jesus - only an eye of faith can see it as it unfolds.

The Cross and the tomb do not offer "quick fix, easy healing" - they do call us to wait in Hope for victory/glory beyond understanding. We can withdraw from the tomb - OR look deep inside and find it empty - look around and find HIM alive and moving and calling us.

The forces of pain, suffering, rejection and death are too much with us - the rock remains across the tomb. To the one grown/matured in faith, the rock has been rolled away, the burden has been lifted - Jesus is alive and is going before us to places and situations that we will meet, to people we will encounter, to suffering we will endure, to rejection we will experience, to death we will face, etc.

He is alive! He goes ahead of us into our Galilee, just as He promised His disciples to go into their Galilee.

We did make a journey with Jesus through Lent and have come to experience Easter. It was a great journey. The whole journey is far greater than all that we did in making the journey. The mystery of following Jesus can not be put into simple words. The mystery of dying and rising with Christ is an experience at the depth of our hearts which no word can describe. We may not look different - we may not even feel different. We will continue to meet testing times - may even fight a few demons. We will have our periods of fatigue and despair, fear and anxiety, doubts and frustrations. We may make wrong turns and "U" turns. Yet deep inside of us, we are different because we met him in life and in death – we have risen with him – we are new persons and a new people because the one who died and was laid in the tomb is alive – He now lives and holds out to us the hope of a new life.

Saint of the Day, April 19 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla and 12 other saints are remembered this day.

Gianna Beretta was born in Magenta near Milano on October 4, 1922, the 10th of Alberto and Maria Beretta's 13 children. When she was three the Berettas relocated to Bergamo where she grew up. Beretta made her First Communion on April 4, 1928 and received her Confirmation in the Bergamo Cathedral on June 9, 1930. The Berettas moved to Genoa where she attended school and became an active participant in parish life in the parish of Saint Peter. In 1938, she made the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius.

In 1942 she began her studies in medicine in Milan. Outside of her schooling she was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a leader in the Catholic Action movement. She earned degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia, eventually specializing in pediatrics. In 1952, Gianna opened a clinic in the small town of Mesero, where she met engineer Pietro Molla and got married. In the next four years they had three children, two pregnancies following ended in miscarriage.

Early in her sixth pregnancy, doctors discovered that Gianna had both a child and a tumor in her uterus. She allowed the surgeons to remove the tumor but not to perform the complete hysterectomy that they recommended, which would have killed the child. Seven months later in April 1962, Gianna Emanuela Molla was born at the hospital in Monza, but post-operative complications resulted in an infection for her mother. The following week, Gianna Molla died at home in Mesero, where she was buried. Gianna Emanuela went on to become a physician herself. Gianna Beretta Molla was beatified in 1994 and canonized 10 years later.

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