



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Dear Friend of St. Jude,

During these days the drama of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection will unfold before us, drawing us as pilgrims into the Way of the Cross. We have a great patron who walked that road before us in St. Jude the Apostle. It is true that St. Jude, as most of the Apostles, was not present at the foot of the Cross. Like St. Peter and the others, he ran away. We can imagine him seeing the work of Christ destroyed; the cause of the Apostles was now hopeless and lost. Yet as a witness to the Resurrection of our Savior, what was impossible now becomes possible! St. Jude knows what it means to be in despair and he understands the gift of Hope in God's power to save. This is why he is our guide, our model, and our patron.

Historically, the last two weeks of Lent are known as Passiontide. And the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, says St. Augustine in one of his sermons, "is our greatest hope, our greatest glory." For in dying for us Christ has "most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves." This is the season for being especially mindful of that promise and keeping it close to our hearts.

It is also a lesson in patience, as we learn faithfully to cultivate our Lenten practices and prepare our souls to share in Christ's Easter triumph. We know we will. Our faith tells us so, and, most assuredly, He tells us so: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself (John 12:32).

This Lenten season marks the beginning of my stewardship as director of the Shrine, succeeding Fr. Dismas Sayre, who has been transferred to minister in Alaska. I am honored to be here with you. As we pray for Fr. Dismas in his new ministry, let us pray as well for one another, as together we work to build God's kingdom under the banner of our holy patron. The journey is often challenging: directly before us are the shattering events of Holy Thursday, the unfathomable sorrows of Good Friday and the great yawning stillness of Holy Saturday. But then comes Easter, the last word! So let us together seek the intercessory power of St. Jude for growth in holiness, and for our world so in need of the light of the Resurrection.

The staff here at the Shrine join me in wishing you Easter joy and every blessing.

Sincerely in Christ our Lord and St. Jude,

Very Rev. Vincent M. Kelber, O.P.
Director

