



Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus Dominican Friars

March 10, 2018

“The victory of life is won.”

Dear Friend,

There is an old custom of “burying the Alleluia” for the penitential season of Lent (or before Septuagesima on the old calendar). It would be either a literal or a symbolic “burial” of an ornately printed or written “Alleluia,” that glorious word that we in the Latin Church do not sing or say at all during Lent. That forbidden word would then be “resurrected” at the Easter Vigil, amidst great joy and gladness. Indeed, the entire Easter season would be replete with extra alleluias.

For this season of Lent, we too have been called to bury the “old self,” that we might die with Christ, so that we too might rise with Him, amidst gladness and joy, at the Resurrection, singing forever the eternal alleluia.

Lent is, in a way, the liturgical season that is the most “now,” for we recognize that we are still wandering in this vale of tears, and there will be sorrow and pain, and none are spared. Even Our Lord chose to participate with us in our human experience, walking with us in our earthen journey, even experiencing the death of His friend Lazarus, and His own Passion and Death.

But soon and very soon, we will begin the liturgical season of Easter, the liturgical season that is the most “final,” looking forward to our own finality and eternity with Christ, based on that historical Resurrection. And that is our great Hope, above all else, based on the Risen Christ. Hope impels us forward in this life, then, knowing that whatever battles we may lose or be wounded in, Our Lord has already won the war.

As the great Easter hymn *The Strife is O'er* sings when the Alleluia bursts forth out of its own “tomb,”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!

We commit then, all our needs and petitions for this glorious Novena to our Victorious and Immortal King, and to our friend St. Jude, once himself fallen in the field of battle as a martyr, now reigning with Christ in glory. Victory likewise will be ours, if we but remain faithful as St. Jude did.

Gratefully yours, in Christ and good St. Jude,

Fr. Dismas Sayre, O.P.

Fr. Dismas E. Sayre, OP
Director