

Chapter 1 : RELECTIONS ON THE PASSION

God created us with passions. These can be either great blessings in our Christian walk or they can become great snares. It all depends on what controls each passion.

I asked myself exactly what it has to say to us in the context of this past week. The change in direction of the wind makes breathing outside difficult. We wait in hopes of a directional shift later this afternoon. Throughout the state of California this week, people have lost homes and now we hear about lives lost. Sadly, in addition, more lives were lost because of senseless violence in Thousand Oaks; while the national scene seems to grow more polarized each day. The three verses from St. In both cases, faith is the central theme with praise and gratitude added in the latter story. Jesus continues to make his way to Jerusalem as he invites the apostles to reflect on the expectations of a servant in that society. Paul touches on this idea of expectations of the wider Christian community in his letter to Titus. The norms of the Mediterranean world were clearly understood, adhering to the Code of Conduct was expected, and failing to do so would bring dishonor to your community. There was no rugged individualism in this world. Yet, to live as a Christian made your actions especially significant as it spoke to your values and your obligation to your faith community as well as your commitment to living out the Gospel in every aspect of your life. Does he challenge us to go beyond what is required? Does our obligation to be his servant stretch us beyond what we think we are capable of in our daily lives? What does our idea of being his servant mean to me or to you? It must be more than obligation! How does this scripture speak to me today in the context of my life? In the context of yours? For, it is NOT about us and our obligations at all. It is only by grace that we are touched or infused, with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Come Holy Spirit and bless our world today. Daily Scripture, November 13, Scripture: Daily Scripture, November 12, Scripture: In his letter to Titus, Paul lists a sobering set of qualifications for a bishop or church leader: Daily Scripture, November 11, Scripture: Jesus does not praise the economic poverty of a widow. Daily Scripture, November 10, Scripture: I see a continuous stream of articles decrying the fact that so few Americans have money saved for retirement. Daily Scripture, November 8, Scripture: Daily Scripture, November 7, Scripture: Recently I brought my lifetime guaranteed winter coat in for repairs. Daily Scripture, November 6, Scripture: Daily Scripture, November 5, Scripture: Daily Scripture, November 4, Scripture:

Chapter 2 : Daily Reflections

This little volume REFLECTIONS ON THE PASSION was written for just this purpose. It should provide the laity with short, pointed considerations for quiet prayer, the religious, with ready material for personal and profitable meditation, and the clergy, with suitable matter before-Mass reading to the faithful or for sermon seeds for.

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. In the days when Christ was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Gospel Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. So if you are looking for me, let these men go. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me? He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather than the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Now the other disciple was known to the high priest, and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside. So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high priest, went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought Peter in. Peter was also standing there keeping warm. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said. Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping warm. And immediately the cock crowed. Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done? If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice. But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you the King of the Jews? Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. I find no guilt in him. Do you not know that I have power to release you and I have power to crucify you? For this reason the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar. It was preparation day for Passover, and it was about noon. So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. This is what the soldiers did. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. Here all kneel and pause for a short time. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced. After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.

And Pilate permitted it. So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom. Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by. The Gospel of the Lord. We all witness how much Jesus hungered and thirsted for justice. He went to the extreme of giving up everything and accepting death on the cross. Today, we all witness how the Righteous died as a criminal. We should thirst that more souls be saved and as such be able to devote our lives into bringing people closer to God as Jesus Himself said: Just as Jesus died for us, we too should be able to do the same in His Name, all for God and His people! As we meditate on the passion and death of our Lord, let us ask ourselves what kind of death we need to have on a regular basis so that we may be able to live in His glory. Is it our arrogance and pride, our anger or simply our failure to see Christ in others? Or have we been so overcome by sin that we have long been dead to God and His people? Let us prepare our hearts for Jesus. Let us go and retreat where it will be possible to hear Him and feel His touch. Let us dwell on His Word and be refreshed. Our Good Friday will become glorious as in Easter Sunday! Direction Let us commit to give our lives to God the way Jesus did. Prayer Father, into your hands I commend my spirit as I seek my new life in Christ. In Him, I hope and pray. Reflection 2 "Greatest Love Story Two brothers lived together in the same house. The elder brother was a responsible family man. The younger one was single and into a lot of vices and criminal activities. At night he would come home late, drunk and with a lot of cash. The elder brother knew exactly what he was into. He would spend hours pleading with him to mend his ways and live a decent life. But the young man would not listen. One night he came running into the house with a smoking gun and bloodstained clothes. In a few minutes police cars came and the two brothers knew there was no escape. The elder brother had an idea. He exchanged his clothes with the bloodstained clothes of his killer brother. The police arrested him, tried him and condemned him to death for murder. He was killed, and his younger brother lived. He died for his brother. We are the younger brother. Jesus is the elder brother. He died for us. This is the meaning of our celebration today. Unfortunately, in this world obsessed with materialism and egoism, few people recognize the profound meaning of this day. In a fancy New York hotel, to give bonus attraction and entertainment to the guests during the Holy Week, a life-sized sculpture of the Crucified Lord was displayed in the lobby. Has anyone seen a chocolate sculpture of the death of Mohammed or a candy image of the assassination of JFK?

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Tell me what you love, and I shall tell you what you are. If your love is for the world, you are its slave. If your love is for Jesus Christ, you are free; you are becoming conformed to His image; your conversation, that is your life and conduct even here below, are continually in Heaven. Jesus Christ is alone worthy of your whole heart. It should provide the laity with short, pointed considerations for quiet prayer, the religious, with ready material for personal and profitable meditation, and the clergy, with suitable matter before-Mass reading to the faithful or for sermon seeds for Lenten courses. IT is related that King Louis XIV of France, shortly after his ascent to the throne, stood at an open window in his palace and silently admired the simple beauty of the church of St. Denis, standing some distance away. The very next day the king ordered another palace built so that the Church of St. Denis would be hidden from his view. Holy Mother the Church is much more realistic. Because Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they had to submit to this dreadful penalty, and in like manner, all their descendants. The imposition of ashes, then, is not only symbolic of death, but of penance and mortification too. The ashes should remind us, since holy men like Job and David associated ashes with penance, and the Church has been doing the same for almost years. So you see, life, death, mortification, penance, are all brought to our minds by the simple but deeply meaningful ceremony of the imposition of the blessed ashes. Could a more a more effective way be found to signify the beginning of the penitential season of Lent? The external application of ashes to our foreheads will be useless and meaningless unless and until we resolve in our hearts to use the forty days ahead to do penance in reparation for our past failures and practice mortification to condition our souls and bodies for the struggle ahead. Spend some time today in considering the fact that you will sooner or later die and that everyone and everything you hold near and dear to you must be left behind. Thursday After Quinquagesima Sunday: TRUE devotion in its highest meaning includes love for, and imitation of, the person to whom we are devoted, and Holy Mother the Church presents our prayerful devotion during Lent the Sacred Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, with fervent hope that we shall be aroused to imitate Him. His sufferings of the scourging, our physical pain; He is treated as a fool by Herod; He was rejected for Barabbas; are we not sometimes rejected for another set aside for some one who is certainly more worthy than ourselves? Is not the gall they gave Him to drink like the bitterness we receive when we are longing for consolation? As we look at the dead body of our Lord hanging on the Cross, we see that His Passion was one long act of submission. Hear Christ Himself say: Christ is the only way we must follow, especially in the practice of virtue, and it was during the Passion that His practice of the virtues was strikingly sublime and heroic. Endeavor to seize upon one thought and keep turning it over in your mind during the day. Try to see the virtue practiced by the Master and resolve to imitate that virtue. Strive to find some lesson in each of these daily considerations and resolve to put it in practice during the day. In your examination of conscience at night, examine yourself on how you kept the resolution taken that morning. Little good will result from the study of the Passion unless such a study results in our imitation of Christ. What a symbolic spot chosen by the Sacred Redeemer of Mankind for the initial and awful beginning of the Passion! Here He was to take upon Himself the sins of the world and be so crushed under their terrible weight that His precious blood flowed from every pore of His body. Decide now on one positive act of mortification to be practiced this very day, recalling these words of the Imitation of Christ: Thus shall we begin our study of the Passion. Friday After Quinquagesima Sunday: Now in the Garden of Olives these same Apostles would see their Lord and their God bent and crushed under the weight of sin. The thought of the Transfiguration would have to strengthen them in this hour of disillusionment. The apostles had always known our Lord to be composed in the face of attack or crisis. For instance, when the elements of nature tossed their fishing boats until they, hardened fishermen though they were, quaked with fear, Jesus was calm and unafraid; but in the Garden of Gethsemani they were to see this same Christ prostrate on the ground bathed in a sweat of blood. That which made up the very anguish of Gethsemani was the fact that Christ, at that moment, took upon Himself the sins of the world – past, present, and future. Well, as He entered the darkness, He may have craved human

companionship. It was not that the Apostles could do anything for Him, but that their very presence would support Him. Too, He wanted to teach them some important lessons. The first lesson was this, that when one is oppressed, discouraged, heartbroken, and forsaken, he should pray. That is what our Lord did. He was overwhelmed by the sins of mankind, His Apostles, His closest friends, fell asleep – yet He prayed. Always remember what our Lord told His weak apostles when he awakened them the first time: The second lesson was equally apparent. At that very moment Judas was briefing the soldiers on where to find Christ and how to apprehend Him. The soldiers were getting themselves ready to arrest the Son of God. So it has always been, and always will be – the enemies of your soul and mine, the enemies of Christ and His Church never sleep. They are always more vigilant, more energetic, more active than we are. Resolve today to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament and let the picture of Christ in the Garden of Olives come to your mind. Approach your prostrate King – promise Him to do some positive penance for the sins you have committed. Ask Him to teach you this important lesson – that when doubts, trials, sorrows, and temptations assail you, you, following His example, will pray, pray, pray. Saturday After Quinquagesima Sunday: Oh how the words of the prophet were fulfilled: Note that our Lord goes back a second time to pray. This time He is even more alone than before. He prays to His heavenly Father, and his heavenly Father turns a deaf ear to His petition. His Apostles are sleeping again, and yet he prays alone. He is now in a state of supreme desolation and yet He prays. He is in a state of complete dereliction but He prays on. Learn from this lesson to pray even under the most adverse circumstances. Consider the fact that Christ persevered in His prayer. Already He prayed to His Father saying: The second prayer of our Lord was a repetition of the first, for He said: The third prayer was couched in the same words – a prayer more fervent, more earnest than any uttered by any man who ever lived on this earth – yet His Father, it seemed, did not listen to His petition. Christ did not grow impatient, He calmly and resignedly adds: What a great lesson in this for all of us! God the Father refused the most perfect, the most precious prayer ever uttered on this earth – but he did so to prove His love for sinful man. For the sake of sinful man He will not answer the prayer of His own Son, because had God acted otherwise, we would have all been lost. From now on, never complain if your prayers are unanswered. Just keep right on praying. Say your rosary today for the grace of perseverance.

Chapter 4 : Reflections on the Passion

Reflections of Passion is the sixth studio album by Yanni, released on the Private Music label in The album peaked at #1 on "Billboard's "Top New Age Albums" chart, and at #29 on the "Billboard " chart during the same year.

Most of us know it began with jubilation and admiration for Him. It quickly turned ugly when the celebration became cruelty beyond our ability to fully appreciate. Three days at the end of the week forever changed our world. In this note let us think of the Friday and Saturday. It is the day of the cross, the day of death, the day of darkness. It was the bleakest day in our economic history. The earth quaked, the graves were opened and the veil in the Temple in Jerusalem was torn from top to bottom. God had already demonstrated it. He turned the greatest tragedy in history into His greatest blessing! Christ was not victim but victor. He became sin for us completing and fully paying the penalty for sin, ultimate separation from God. I call your attention to the other day which is almost overlooked in the great Passion drama of history. Neither have secular historians described anything about that day. Therefore, it is up to our imagination to suppose what it was like the day when the world thought God was dead. What went on that day? Was it life as usual for those who knew what had happened, both believers and the others? I wonder what happened that day during what must have been numbness and fear, when it seemed, hope had fled. The Passover day was supposed to be a quiet day of reflection for the Jewish families remembering and rejoicing in how God had delivered the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt more than a thousand years earlier. But now what were they to think? They had asked Pilate to station soldiers at the tomb. What about the Roman soldiers who crucified Him? Perhaps they got drunk in an effort to blot out memories of what they had done. He must have experienced grief as he realized that with his own hands he had crucified the Son of God. What happened to the disciples that day? Most left the scene of the crucifixion to save their lives with the exception of John. Their Master was dead and so was their cause. This must have been a day of deep questioning of themselves and God. They were tossed by storms of despair. They gathered in the Upper Room at some point and locked the door for their own protection. They expressed their despair and anguish to a stranger. But the symbols had become meaningless. They put their Passover lambs on the altar while the true Lamb of God lay in a borrowed tomb just a few yards away. Martin Luther, the great reformer, went through a dark and melancholy time in his spiritual journey. One day his wife entered his study all draped in black. Evening came on that Saturday long ago. The horns sounded from the Temple towers to mark the end of the Sabbath. The shops opened and life picked up again. Mary Magdalene and the other women brought spices to the tomb the next morning. Through that evening they made preparation. They needed the work to make the hours bearable. All of us sometimes need the healing of work which can calm and comfort our hearts. Ultimately work will not suffice. The work of faith, when practiced regularly, not just in one night of getting ready for one special service of the year, serves to protect, inform and guide our hearts through the troubling times of this world with a view into that which is to come. What would you have done that Saturday? What do you do when the worst things happen in life? Do you know how to turn to God and find Him as a friend? Is faith a practical reality for you?

Chapter 5 : End of Year Reflections - Passion Fit

Readings & Reflections: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion & Blessed Peter Gonzalez, April 14, "Christ's execution notice became with paradoxical unity the 'confession of faith,' the real starting-point and rooting-point of the Christian faith, which holds Jesus to be the Christ: as the crucified criminal this Jesus is the Christ, the King.

Chapter 6 : Passion Reflections on Behance

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Chapter 7 : Passion | Reflections

I wrote Love, Life, & Passion, Reflections of My Soul, to share my thoughts, memories, and feelings of a life that was not lived according to my original plan, but instead of a life adapting to forces beyond my control.

Chapter 8 : Passion Week Reflections | Eastern Hills Baptist Church

Personal Reflections: For me, there were definitely ups and downs personally and professionally in I had moments of joy, peace, growth and happiness and some moments of stress, burnout, worry and frustration as well.

Chapter 9 : Reflection The Danger and Blessing of Passions - Daily Reflections on Divine Mercy

Following the recital Mr Uinskas' agent asked me to review his then forthcoming CD and I am pleased to see that the new recording, entitled Passions and Reflections, has finally been released. The centrepiece of this CD is Chopin's second set of Études which were composed between