

4th Week: **WALK WITH JOY!**

There are roads –feelings- we can not travel! Hatred, condemnation of others, disbelief, lies, darkness, evil deeds... They are futile sentiments that make us live in sadness, abandoned and alone; that separate us from others and makes us deviate from the paths of Jesus. Everything is permitted to us, but not all things are good for us or make us truly happy. The Light of God's love is our **true JOY**.



Gospel: John 3: 14-21

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Pope Francis (Message for Lent 2015):

Together with the saints who have found their fulfilment in God, we form part of that communion in which indifference is conquered by love. The Church in heaven is not triumphant because she has turned her back on the sufferings of the world and rejoices in splendid isolation. Rather, the saints already joyfully contemplate the fact that, through Jesus death and resurrection, they have triumphed once and for all over indifference, hardness of heart and hatred. Until this victory of love penetrates the whole world, the saints continue to accompany us on our pilgrim way. Saint Therese of Lisieux, a Doctor of the Church, expressed her conviction that the joy in heaven for the victory of crucified love remains incomplete as long as there is still a single man or woman on earth who suffers and cries out in pain: “I trust fully that I shall not remain idle in heaven; my desire is to continue to work for the Church and for souls” (Letter 254, July 14, 1897). We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart.

Saint Raphaela Mary:

"Give Him all my heart, as He asks."

"I cannot do anything else but leave myself in the hands of God the Father, and tell Him in regard to everything: may your will be done."

"Let us be people of peace and celebration."

We ask for the grace of living **true JOY**

- ✓ What is it that gives us true joy?
- ✓ What in our life deceives us and diverts us from true joy? We ask for the LIGHT of Jesus to see all that separates us from Him.
- ✓ How can we bring the **JOY** of Jesus to others?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
help us to understand that there are ways that we should not go: they are paths that lead us to sadness, mistrust, loneliness, to meaninglessness...
Help us, Jesus, to believe that You are the Son of God and that, with your Life, you bring us paths of light and love that lead us to a happy and abundant life...
May your Light help us to be strong and to want more truth and transparency in our lives.