**Jesus is Not Just for Mystics**

Speaking in the chapel at Casa Santa Marta, his Vatican residence, the pope said, May 13, that Jesus calls all Christians to form a deep relationship with him. “It is a relationship of intimacy, a mystical relationship, a relationship without words,” he said. To those who object that this is only for mystics, the pope said: “No: this is for all of us. Jesus declares that he is ‘the true vine’ and his disciples are the branches, asking them to ‘Remain in me, as I remain in you.’ This remaining is not a passive remaining. This remaining is an active remaining, and it is also a reciprocal remaining.” He said it was possible to speak of the vine as “needing” its branches in order to bear fruit. “What is the ‘need’ that Jesus has of us? Testimony. “Jesus, he explained, “needs” us “to bear witness to his name, because faith, the Gospel, grows by witness.”

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**Anna’s Conversion to the Catholic Faith—5-Minute Very Inspiring YouTube Video!**

“i didn’t know the significance of the Eucharist, but I felt an overwhelming peace at Mass.”

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**Love the Lord**

KIDS Fun Sing-A-Long 🎵 and Dance Video!

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**Retreat Master for Mother Teresa’s Sisters:**

Advice for Spiritual Growth Amid Coronavirus

Laura Dittus

APR. 15, 2020

Father Donald Haggerty, parochial vicar at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York, stated, “It is a very difficult moment, certainly, unprecedented in the history of the Church. Yet nothing occurs without purpose in the plan of God. We might ask what God is speaking to us through this time, not just through the pandemic, but in its spiritual repercussions. Just as we must accept Holy Saturday’s absence of Our Lord, which is ordinarily one day, we may have to accept this longer Holy Saturday for the duration that God permits. Yet there can be also in the Church the solidarity of spiritual suffering in this absence of the Eucharist. Perhaps we might realize that spiritually, in all the pain and tragedy of this time, we are more than ever united as a Church that suffers in the Heart of Christ. Let us not waste this suffering but offer it especially for souls dying and in need of grace at this time. A great sacrifice is being asked, in many lives terribly so, and yet all sacrifice can be fruitful when offered for others. This unique time has become an invitation to quiet down and detach ourselves from an unhealthy driven quality that lacks real prayer in a daily manner.

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**Sunday Connection Gospel Reading—Family Connection**

LOYOLA PRESS.

In today’s Gospel we glimpse Jesus’ prayer for his disciples. Jesus also prayed for all those who would have faith in him because of the disciples’ teaching. That means that Jesus prayed for us as well, even before his death on the cross. Our faith tells us that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father’s right hand.

+ Gather together as a family and think about the tradition of praying for other people. Who do you pray for? What do you ask for in your prayers? In today’s Gospel we find an example of Jesus’ prayer to the Father. Read together today’s Gospel, John 17:1-11a. Think about Jesus’ prayer for his disciples. We know that Jesus continues to intercede for us at the Father’s right hand. What might Jesus’ prayer be for you and your family? Conclude by praying together in thanks for the great love that Jesus shows you. Pray together the Lord’s Prayer.