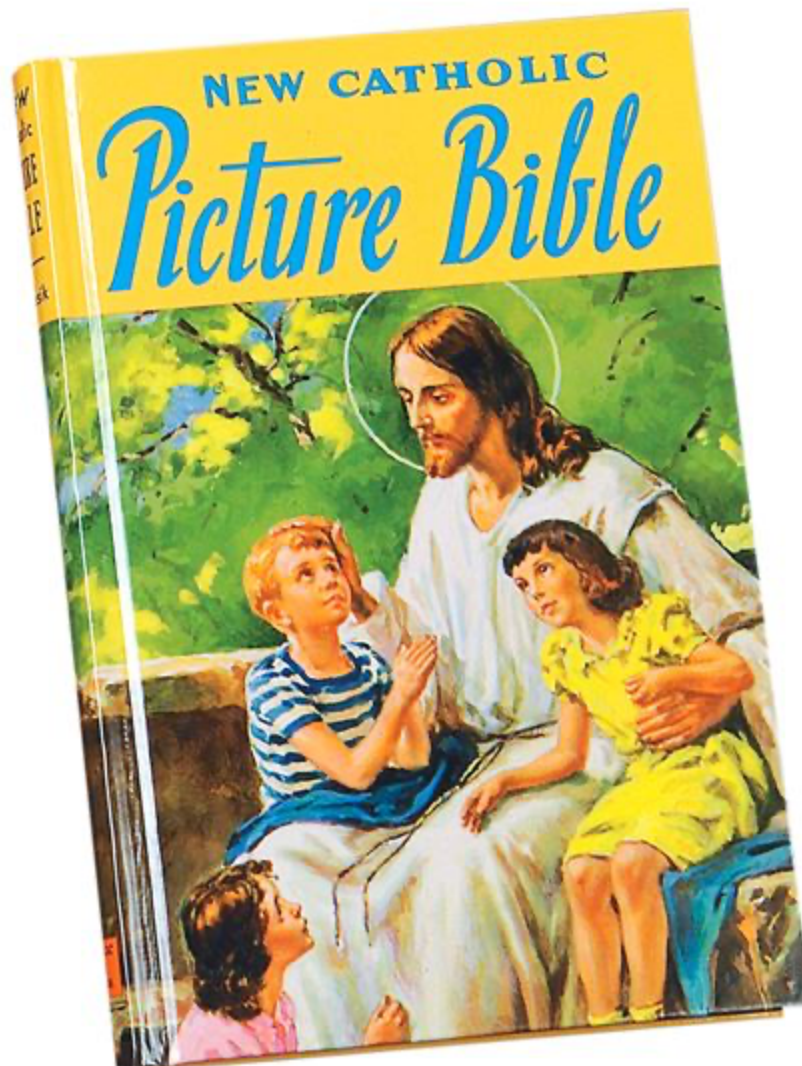


The following Bible Stories are taken from the book: **New Catholic Picture Bible**
By Father Lawrence Lovasik, S.V.D.
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These stories can be used as meditations before praying our Rosary decades as part of guided Eucharistic Holy Hours for children. The page number for each story is provided for the children to follow along in their books. The following stories are slightly edited in the parts that talk *about* Jesus. The prayer leader will talk *to* Jesus since He is before us in the Blessed Sacrament.



The Annunciation

Page 94

The hour was at hand which God had been preparing His people. Not only the Jews, but all the world was looking for a Redeemer. They prayed that God would now keep the promise He made to Adam and Eve and had repeated again and again through the prophets.

The Angel Gabriel was sent from God to the town of Nazareth, in that part of the land called Galilee, in the north. There the angel found a young girl named Mary, who was soon to be married to Joseph, he was a relative of King David. (Mary and Joseph were betrothed which according to the Jewish law means they were a married couple but did not live together yet.) The angel came into the room Mary was and said to her, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you. You are blessed among women."

Mary was surprised at the angel's words and wondered what they could mean. Then the angel spoke again and said, "Do not be afraid, Mary. You have found grace with God. The Lord has chosen you to be the mother of a Son and you shall call Him Jesus. He shall be great; and shall be called the Son of God. The Lord will give Him the throne of David His father. He shall be king over the people of God forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end."

But Mary could not see how all this would happen. And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Most High God shall be over you; and the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God. And your cousin Elizabeth will also have a son in her old age, for nothing is impossible with God."

Mary was obedient. She knew that the angel was sent by God to tell her what God wanted. So she replied, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

As soon as Mary gave this answer, she became the Mother of God. The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took to Himself a body and soul like ours. Jesus, You became Man and dwelt among us. This is called the mystery of Your Incarnation.

The coming of the angel to Mary is called the Annunciation, because the angel announced Your birth, Jesus. The Church celebrated the feast of the Annunciation on March 25

The Visitation

Page 96

When the angel had gone away, Mary at once made a four-day journey to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, eighty miles away in the south country. When Elizabeth saw Mary, she was filled with the Holy Spirit who let her know about the wonderful thing God had done to Mary. She cried out with joy, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And how have I deserved to have the Mother of my Lord visit me?"

Then Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to praise God saying, "My soul praises the Lord and I rejoice in God, my Savior. Because He has looked upon the lowliness of His handmaid. For behold, from now on all generations shall call me blessed; because He who is mighty has done great things for me!"

Mary stayed with her cousin for nearly three months, until the birth of Elizabeth's son.

Nine months before an angel from God had appeared to Zechariah and told him that his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son who was to be called John. John was to convert many people and prepare them for the coming of the Savior. But Zechariah doubted these words, and from that moment he could not speak or hear. So now the relative and friends asked him, by signs, what name he wished to be given to the child. He motioned for something to write upon; and when they brought it, he wrote, "John is his name."

Then all at once Zechariah could speak and hear again! He praised God, saying, "You, O child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, to go before the Lord and make ready His ways."

When John grew up, he went out into the desert to the south, and there he stayed until the time came for him to preach to the people, for this child became the great prophet John the Baptist.

The Nativity

Page 100

On that night some shepherds were tending their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. Suddenly a great light shone upon them, and they saw an angel of the Lord standing before them. They were filled with fear, as they saw how glorious the angel was.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel, “for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all mankind. Today in the city of David is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

And then they saw that the air around and the sky above them were filled with angels, praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth among men of good will.”

While they looked with wonder and listened, the angels went out of sight as suddenly as they had come. Then the shepherds said one to another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this wonderful thing that God has made known to us.”

As quickly as they could, they went to Bethlehem, and there they found Mary and Joseph, and You, Jesus, a little Babe lying in the manger. They told Mary and Joseph, and others also, how they had seen the angels, and what they had heard about this Infant. All who heard their story wondered at it; but Mary, Your Mother, said nothing. She thought over all these things and silently kept them in her heart. After their visit, the shepherds, praising God for the good news that He had sent to them, went back to their flocks.

In this way, Your birth, Jesus, as our Savior, was made known to the faithful people who were praying for your coming. You did not appear to the rich or powerful but to plain, simple, and unknown shepherds. You were poor, and therefore You chose poor men as Your friends. The poor and humble are the first in Your kingdom.

The shepherds had great faith and devotion. In Your childhood, Jesus, they adored the great God of eternity; in Your littleness they honored Your humility; in Your swaddling clothes they saw Your poverty; in the hardness of the manger they wondered at Your love of sacrifice. They drew close to You and offered their little gifts with loving and grateful hearts.

Eight days passed. Then according to the Law, Mary and Joseph held the religious service in which a Jewish child was given its name. They called You Jesus. The name Jesus means “Savior.” It was the name the angel (Gabriel at the Annunciation) said You should have. Your very name told what You would do for men. God had become Man to save the world!

The Presentation

Page 103

It was the law among the Jews that after the first child was born in a family, he should be brought to the Temple. God once told the Israelites that the first-born belonged to Him. The parents would offer a sacrifice to God as a sign that they were buying the child back. A rich man would offer a lamb, but a poor man might give a pair of young pigeons for the sacrifice. Jesus, when You were forty days old, Mary and Joseph brought You to the Temple; and as Joseph the carpenter was not a rich man, they gave for You as an offering a pair of young pigeons.

At that time there lived in Jerusalem a man of God named Simeon. The Lord had spoken to him and had said to him that he would not die until the Anointed King had come. The word Christ means "Anointed." On a certain day the Spirit of the Lord told Simeon to go to the Temple. There he saw for the first time the promised Christ. He took You Jesus, a little Child, in his arms and thanked God our Heavenly Father for letting him see You, our Redeemer. Then he said, "Now, O Lord, You may let Your servant die in peace, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have sent to all people – a light to give light to all nations, the glory of Your people Israel."

When Mary and Joseph heard this, they wondered. Simeon gave them a blessing in the name of the Lord, and he said to Mary, "This little one shall cause many in Israel to fall and rise again. Many shall speak against Him; and sorrow shall pierce your heart like a sword."

All this was to happen later when Mary would see You dying on the cross, Jesus.

A very old woman whose name was Anna, and to whom God spoke as to a prophet, also saw, through the help of the Holy Spirit, that You were Christ the Lord, and she gave thanks to God our Father for this grace.

So, early in Your life, Jesus, God our Heavenly Father showed to few people that You would become the Savior of His people and of the world!

The Finding In The Temple

Page 108

Jesus, when You were a boy, twelve years old, You were taken up to the feast of the Passover. For the first time You saw the holy city of Jerusalem and the Temple of the Lord. You knew You were in Your Father's house.

Jesus, You were so filled with love for Your Father and the worship of the Temple that when it was time to go home to Nazareth, You stayed behind. The group of people who were traveling together was large, and at first You were not missed. But when night came and You could not be found, Your Mother became very much worried. The next day Mary and Joseph left their group and hurried back to Jerusalem. They sought You among their friends and relatives who were living in the city, but could not find You.

On the third day, still looking for You, they went up to the Temple. There they found You sitting with the teachers of the law, listening to their words and asking questions. Everyone was surprised at Your knowledge of the word of God!

Your Mother spoke to You sadly, "Son, why have You treated us in this way? Your father (St. Joseph) and I have been seeking for You with sad hearts."

"Why did you look for Me?" You said. "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" ("My Father" meaning God the Father.)

Jesus, You answered Mother Mary very gently. You thought she would have known that You must think about God's work, and surely she should have looked for You first of all in Your Father's house, for You are God's own Son. Yes, You are Mary's Son but You are God's Son too. But when You had gently reminded her of this, You obediently went home to Nazareth with her (and Joseph.)

Mary and Joseph did not understand Your words, Jesus, but Mary often thought about them afterward, for she treasured in her heart every word that You had spoken.

The Baptism of Jesus

Page 112

The news went through the land of Israel that a prophet had risen up and was preaching the word of God. For more than four hundred years God had not sent a prophet to His people. The new prophet was John, the son of the old priest Zechariah. From all parts of the land people came to the wild region beside the river Jordan, where John was preaching the word of God and the coming of the Messiah.

John was baptizing in the river Jordan. He poured water over the heads of those who were sorry for their sins. This was a sign of their hope to be cleansed of all their sins. Because of this he was called "John the Baptist." John did not confer the Sacrament of Baptism, because You, Jesus, had not yet instituted it yet.

Many who heard John believed him to be a great prophet, and others thought he was the promised Redeemer.

But John said, "I baptize you with water. But One greater than I is coming. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire." In these words he spoke of You Jesus!

One day, Jesus, You came to John. At once John knew that You were the Son of God! He refused to pour water over You. He said to You, "It is I who ought to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?"

But, Jesus, You answered, "Let it be so now, for it is fitting that I should do all things that are right."

Then John baptized You, Jesus, in the Jordan, as he had baptized others. And as You came up out of the water and were praying, John saw above your head the heavens opening and the Holy Spirit coming down like a dove and resting upon You. And John heard a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am will pleased."

And then John knew and told others that You were the Son of God, the Christ whom God had promised to send to the people.

The Wedding At Cana

Page 116

Jesus, a few days after you met your first disciples at the river Jordan, You went with them to a town in Galilee called Cana, to be present at a wedding.

Your Mother was at this wedding as a friend of the family, for Nazareth, where she lived, was near Cana. Before the wedding feast was over, all the wine had been used. Mary understood how badly these people felt. Your Mother believed that You, Jesus, had power to do whatever You wished, and she said to you, "They have no wine."

Jesus, You said to her, "What would you have Me do? My hour has not yet come."

It was not yet time for so public a miracle. However, at the request of Your Mother, You were willing to help.

But since Your Mother knew that You would in some way help the people in their need, she said to the servants who were waiting at the table, "Do whatever He tells you."

In the dining hall were standing six large stone jars, each about as large as a barrel, holding twenty-five gallons. These jars held water for washing. Jesus, You said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water."

The servants obeyed You and filled the jars up to the brim. Then You spoke to them again and said, "Now pour out what you need from the jars and take it to the chief steward of the feast."

They drew out from the jars some of the water, which they had poured into them, and saw that it had been turned into wine! As the chief steward did not know where the servants got the wine, he said to the young man who had just been married, "At a feast everybody gives his best wine first, and later he brings on wine that is not so good; but you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus, this was the first time that You used the power that God had given You to do what no other man could do. Such works as these are called "miracles," and Jesus, You did them as signs of Your power as the Son of God. When the disciples saw this miracle, they believed in You more fully than before.

Jesus, You changed water into wine at Your Mother's request, to teach us how much You love her and how powerful are her prayers.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Page 125

Jesus, one day you sat in a boat and talked to the people from it as they sat on the beach. After You had finished speaking, You said to Peter, "Row out into deep water, and lower your nets for a catch." Peter told You that they had been out on the lake all night and had caught nothing. "But," he said, "if You say so, I will lower the nets."

They caught so many fish that the nets were breaking! They called James and John, the two brothers, who were in the other boat, to help them. They came and filled the two boats until they nearly sank.

When Peter saw this, he fell at Your knees, Jesus, saying, "Leave me, Lord. I am a sinful man." "Do not be afraid," You said, "from now on you will be catching men." You said to Peter and the others, "Follow Me." They left everything and became Your followers.

Jesus, one evening You went alone to a mountain not far from Capernaum. A crowd of people and Your disciples followed You. But You left them all and went up to the top of the mountain, where You could be alone. There You stayed all night, praying to God, Your Father. In the morning, out of all Your followers, You chose twelve men who were to walk with You and listen to Your words, so that they might be able to teach others. Some of these men You had called before; but now You called them again, and others with them. They were called, "The twelve," or "the disciples." After You went to heaven, they were called, "The apostles," a word which means "those who were sent out," because You sent them out to preach the Gospel to the world.

You later sent seventy-two other disciples, two by two, into the cities and villages, to preach the kingdom of God.

The Transfiguration

Page 160

Jesus, about six days later (from when You made Peter the head of the Church), You and Your apostles were passing by a high hill. It was Your custom to leave the apostles, especially in the evening, and go to a quiet place to pray. You left the apostles at the foot of the hill and took with You only Peter, James and John. You went up the hill to pray.

While You were praying, a great change came over You. Your face began to shine as brightly as the sun, and Your garments became whiter than snow. The three apostles saw You with all this glory beaming from You.

And they saw two men talking with You. These were Moses and Elijah, who had come down from heaven to meet You. They represented the Law and the prophets that had announced Your coming. Now they (Moses and Elijah) spoke with You of the death that You were to die in Jerusalem.

Scarcely knowing what he was saying, Peter spoke, "Master, it is good for us to be here! If You wish, let us set up three tents here, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah!"

While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud came over them all. The three apostles felt a great fear as they found themselves in the cloud. Out of the cloud the apostles heard a voice saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear Him."

As the apostles heard this voice, they fell down upon their faces on the ground in great fear. And Jesus, You came and touched them, saying, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

When they looked up, the bright cloud had passed away, and Jesus, You were standing there alone. You all then walked together down the mountain, and You said to them, "Do not tell to any man what you have seen, until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Lord, You had allowed Peter and James and John to see some of Your glory to strengthen their faith in You.

The Institution of the Holy Eucharist

Page 192

Jesus, now the moment for which You had waited so long had come. You kept the promise that You had made in the synagogue at Capernaum. You took a piece of bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then You gave it to the apostles and said, "Take and eat; this is My Body."

Then You took a cup with wine in it, blessed it in the same way and said, "All of you drink of this; for this is My Blood of the new covenant which is being shed for many unto the forgiveness of sins... Do this in remembrance of Me."

Lord, You changed bread and wine into Your Body and Blood and offered Yourself to God the Father. This was a sacrifice. At the same time You told the apostles that You would die on the next day. This would be the bloody sacrifice. But You wanted this unbloody sacrifice to continue on earth till the end of time. When You told the apostles to do as You had done, You made them priests who could offer this sacrifice. They could pass this power on to their successors. After You returned to heaven, the apostles continued to offer this Eucharistic Sacrifice. They ordained other priests. In this way, Jesus, You gave us the priesthood and the Mass.

Finally, Jesus, You gave the apostles Your last instructions. You said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: that as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The Agony In The Garden

Page 196

Jesus, You took Peter, James and John, and went into the garden of Gethsemane. You said, "My soul is sad, even unto death. Wait here and watch with Me."

You went a little farther among the trees and fell down upon the ground and cried out, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."

Large drops of sweat like blood, caused by Your suffering, fell from Your face. Then You went to Your apostles and found them asleep. Waking them, You said, "Could you not watch one hour with Me? Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation."

Jesus, You went a second time into the orchard, and You fell on Your knees and prayed again, saying, "My Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done."

Again, You found the apostles sleeping. You went back and prayed a third time. And an angel came and gave You strength.

The Scourging

Page 200

It was early morning when the rulers of the Jews brought You, Jesus, to Pilate. Pilate came out to them and asked them, "What charge do you bring against this man?"

They answered, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have brought Him to you."

Pilate did not wish to be troubled and he said, "Take Him away and judge Him by your own law!"

The Jewish rulers said to Pilate, "We are not allowed to put any man to death. We have found this man teaching evil and telling men not to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate went into his courtroom and sent for You, Jesus. When he looked at You, he said, "Are You the King of the Jews? Your own people have brought You to me. What have You done?"

You said to him, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My followers would have fought that I might not be delivered to the Jews. (Jewish rulers) But, My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate said, "Are You a King, then?"

Jesus, You answered him, "I am a King. This is why I was born, and why I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to You, "What is truth?"

Then without waiting for an answer, Pilate went out to the rulers and the crowd and said, "I find no evil in this man."

But the crowd cried out, "He stirs up the people everywhere, from Galilee even to this place."

When Pilate heard that You had come from Galilee, he sent You to Herod, the ruler of Galilee, who was then in the city. (Turn the page – 202) Jesus, Herod's soldiers mocked You, dressed You in a white robe, as if You were a fool, and sent You back to Pilate.

Then Pilate, to please the people, gave them what they asked. He set free Barabbas. Pilate thought that if he had You scourged, the leaders of the Jews would be satisfied and that he could then free You. He gave You to the soldiers to be scourged. The soldiers stripped You of Your garments and beat You with rods till Your body was covered with blood.

The Crowning With Thorns

Page 202

(The last paragraph) Jesus, because You had been spoken of as a King, the soldiers who beat You made a crown of thorns and put it on Your head. They put on You an old purple robe, the color of kings, and bowing down before You they called out to You, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They mocked You, spat upon You and struck You.

(The next page – 203) Hoping to awaken some pity for You, Pilate brought You out to the people, with the crown of thorns and the purple robe upon You. Pilate said, "Behold the man! I bring Him forth to you, that you may know that I find no guilt in Him."

When the chief priests and their servants saw Jesus, they cried out, "Crucify Him! We have a law, and according to this law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard this, he feared the more and wanted all the more to release You, Jesus. But when the chief priests saw that he was hesitating, they again cried out, "If you release this man, you are not a friend of Caesar's. Anyone that makes himself a King opposes Caesar."

Then Pilate called for a basin of water. He washed his hands before the Jews and said, "I am innocent of this man's blood."

But the leaders of the Jews shouted, "Let His blood be on us and on our children. Away with Him! Crucify Him!"

"Would you have me crucify your King?" asked Pilate.

"He is not our King; we will not have Him for our King," cried the wicked men.

Then Pilate saw it was no use to try and save You, Jesus, and because he was a coward and was afraid of the people, he said, "Take Him, then, and crucify Him yourselves."

Then Pilate turned You over to the Roman soldiers.

The Carrying of the Cross

Page 204

The Roman soldiers then took You, Jesus, and beat You again most cruelly and prepared to lead You out of the city to the place of death. This was a place called "Golgotha" in the Jewish language, "Calvary" in that of the Romans; both words meaning "The Skull Place."

Jesus, as was the custom, You carried Your own cross to Calvary. You received it and tenderly pressed it to Your Heart. Though You received the cross from the hand of Your Father in heaven, it was really we who placed it upon Your shoulder (because of our sins.)

Tired and broken with pain of body and grief of soul, You struggled forward with the cross. Your body swayed beneath the heavy load and You fell to the ground. By Your fall, You atoned for our pride and gave us the grace to rise again after falling into sin.

(The next page – 205)

Jesus, You Meet Your Mother. Sorrow pierced the loving soul of Mary when she caught sight of You, her beloved Son, now so changed and deformed that she could scarcely recognize You. Jesus, when You met her so sorrowful, Your own Heart was torn with pain. And Mary felt all Your pain together with You. That dear Mother of Sorrows gave You up to die for our redemption.

Jesus, You Are Helped By Simon. The soldiers kicked and dragged You along, and lest You should die on the way, they forced a stranger, Simon of Cyrene, to help You carry the cross. But, after Your grateful, loving glance, Simon found his duty a pleasure. Since You call to suffering those who You love, we ought to beg for Simon's privilege to carry our cross of pain bravely for Your sake.

The Crucifixion

Page 208

Jesus, You prayed on the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Two robbers were hung on crosses, one at Your right side and the other at Your left. One of them said to You, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."

And You answered him, "Amen I say to you, this day you shall be with Me in paradise."

Standing by Your cross was Your Mother, and beside her was John, the disciple whom You loved best. Other women besides Your Mother were there. Your Mother's sister and Mary Magdalene. Jesus, You wished to give Your Mother into the care of John, now that You were leaving her, and You said to her, as You looked from her to John, "Woman, behold your son."

In the middle of the afternoon when you had endured three hours of terrible pain on the cross, You cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

After this, You spoke again, saying, "I thirst." Someone dipped a sponge into a cup of vinegar and put it upon a reed and gave You a drink of it.

Then Jesus, You spoke Your last words upon the cross, "It is finished! Father, into Your hands I give My spirit!"

And You died. God died that we sinners might live!

At once a great darkness came over the city of Jerusalem. The earth shook. The rocks split. The tombs opened, and the dead walked about. At that moment the veil of the Temple between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies was torn apart by unseen hands from the top to the bottom. The Roman officer who had charge of the soldiers around the cross said, "Surely this man was the Son of God."

The Resurrection

Page 212

Jesus, when the apostles heard that You were dead, they returned one by one to Jerusalem. They gathered at the house where they had eaten the Last Supper with You. They were very sad. They had hoped that You would set up Your great earthly kingdom at this feast. They also hoped to be important in that kingdom. Now that You were dead so were all their hopes.

But on Sunday morning, You rose by Your own divine power, a glorious Victor, as You had promised. The earth quaked as You came forth from the tomb, and the guards trembled with fear. Your body now shone like the sun. The wounds of Your hands and feet sparkled like precious jewels. Death was conquered.

In Your Resurrection Your body was glorified by being united again to Your glorified Soul. Your body took on spiritual qualities: immortality, beauty and glory, freedom and the power to move about with speed and without hindrance. Your Divinity shone forth through Your glorified body, and floods of joy poured into Your Soul and Sacred Heart.

Your Resurrection was the crown of Your life and work as God-Man, because it was the beginning of the glorious life that was due to You as the Son of God. It was also the reward of Your life of suffering.

Jesus, Your Resurrection is the strongest proof of Your Divinity. The whole truth and meaning of our faith rests upon this greatest of all miracles. You are the Son of God, Your teaching must be true, and the Church which You founded is the Church of the living God. Its sacraments give us the means of salvation by imparting divine grace.

Though it is not mentioned in the Gospels, You surely appeared to Your Mother first. You had received from her the life that was now so glorious. Since she shared in all Your sorrows and sufferings, it was fitting that she should share in the joy and glory of Your triumph.

The Ascension

Page 224

Jesus, forty days after the Resurrection, Your followers met on a mountain in Galilee. More than five hundred people were gathered at this time; and there You showed Yourself to them all. You said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you all days, even unto the consummation (the end) of the world."

Then You said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus the Christ should suffer, and should rise again from the dead on the third day; and that repentance and remission (being sorry and forgiveness) of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. And you yourselves are witnesses of these things. And I send forth upon you the promise of My Father. But wait here in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

After You had given Your last instructions to Your apostles and disciples, Jesus, You lifted up Your hands to bless them. And while You were blessing them, You began to rise in the air, higher and higher, until a cloud covered You and the disciples saw You no more.

While they were looking up toward heaven, they found two men, like angels, with shining garments, standing by them. These men said, "You men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you, shall come again from heaven to earth, as you have seen Him go up from earth to heaven!"

Then the disciples were glad. They worshipped their risen Lord Jesus, now gone up to heaven; and they went again to Jerusalem. And there they remained, praising and giving thanks to God, and praying for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The Descent Of The Holy Spirit

Page 226

Jesus, at the Last Supper You promised to send the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, to the apostles. The Holy Spirit would strengthen them and be with them always.

After Your ascension into heaven, Your apostles and disciples gathered together in an upper room with Mary, Your Mother, and the holy women. Numbering about one hundred and twenty persons, they spent their time in prayer.

On the tenth day, a sound like a mighty wind filled the whole house, and tongues of fire came down upon the head of each one of them. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in many strange tongues.

Before the descent of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were afraid. After they had received the Holy Spirit, they were filled with courage and feared nothing. Peter, who had denied You Jesus, his Master, three times, came forth with the other apostles, and stood before the crowd. "Men of Israel," he said, "hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth whom you have crucified and put to death by the hands of wicked men, God has raised up. We are all witnesses. And now that He has been taken up into heaven and is at the right of God, He has poured forth His Holy Spirit, which you see and hear, even as He promised."

About three thousand persons were converted by this first sermon. They were baptized and united with the rest of the disciples. And they continued faithfully in the teaching of the apostles and in the Communion of the breaking of the bread and in prayer.

After the feast of Pentecost, the apostles went out into the world and preached Christ crucified. They performed many miracles and converted many people.

The Church, founded by You Jesus, will last to the end of time because You sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen, guide, and keep it from error, and because You said, "Behold, I am with you all days, even to the end of the world."

The Assumption

From Fr. Lovasik's books: "Mary My Mother" and "My Friend Jesus"

Children can look at the picture of "The Mount of Olives" in their Bible on page 232

Mary's last years on earth were spent close to You, Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament. Saint John said Mass each day in his own home, where Mary lived, and gave her Holy Communion.

As Mary's love for You grew greater Jesus, so also her desire to be with You grew strong. One day You came for Your Mother. After she died, the Apostles took her body to a new tomb near the Garden of Olives. By the Assumption we believe the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up into heaven, body and soul. This was her reward for her love of God and all of us, and for her prayers and sufferings.

Jesus, at the Annunciation Mary received You on earth; at the Assumption You received her in heaven.

Prayer: Jesus, my Friend, I thank You for giving me Your loving Mother Mary to be my Mother too. Keep me safe in her loving care that I may never hurt You by sin or ever forget Your love for me. Hear Your Mother's prayers for me. Make my body pure and my soul holy. Give me all the grace I need ever to be Your friend. Amen.

The Coronation

From Fr. Lovasik's books: "Mary My Mother" and "My Friend Jesus"

Children can look at the picture of Mary's "prayer of praise" in their Bible on page 96

Jesus, You led Your Mother to a throne of glory in heaven, next to Your own. As she felt pain and sorrow with You on earth, she now feels joy with You in heaven forever. As You put the most beautiful crown upon her head, all the angels and saints praised her as their Queen. She bowed to the Most Holy Trinity and again could say her prayer of praise: "My soul praises the Lord. All people shall call me blessed, for God has done great things for me."

The Blessed Virgin Mary now shares in the glory of her Son because she had a part in the great work of saving our souls. She is Queen of all of us. She obtains all graces for us through her prayers. As her children we should pray to her in all our needs.

Mary is our true mother. Jesus, you gave her to us from the cross when You said, "There is your Mother." In heaven she obtains many graces and blessing for us.

Prayer: Jesus, my Friend, by all the love You feel in Your Heart for Mary, by all her love for You, make me love her more. Let her fill my heart with a greater love for You. Amen.