

May Jubilee Reflection 2025

11th Article: The Resurrection of the Body (1 Cor 15:15; 21-22)

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The resurrection of Jesus Christ epitomizes and demonstrates the destiny of the entire human race. The destiny of humanity is eternal life and life's definitive victory over death. Death, therefore, will not have the last say for those who work on and maintain their relationship with God. By rising from the dead, Jesus Christ demonstrated that He is Lord of both the living and the dead. Moreover, he also showed that he is the author of life when he raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). Jesus' resurrection is our hope and guarantee of our own end, as humanity (John 15:11-22 & Rom 8:11). The belief in the resurrection gave the first Disciples of Jesus Christ courage to proclaim him as Lord amidst the sufferings of the time. It transformed them from being fearful to being fearless proclaimers of the Good News.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead, empowered countless sons and daughters of the Church to give up their earthly lives in witness to the faith in order to gain eternal life. Some martyrs spoke of heaven being opened as they were dying (St Lawrence). St Ignatius of Antioch wrote in his letter to the Romans: "let me be the food of beasts that I may come to God...But if I suffer, I shall become the freedman of Jesus Christ and I shall rise again to freedom in him". Faith in the resurrection of the body shows that a relationship with God is based on life (John 10:10, 28; 11:25-26). The destiny of humanity is one, union with God who is life (II Macc. 7:23). Our bodies will have a role to play in our own resurrection, hence we ought to take care of them. Mary, the first disciple and model of discipleship, was assumed body and soul into heaven.

The event Easter Sunday, reveals that Christians have a sure hope which is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This event became the foundational pillar of the Christian faith. Our hope for eternal life springs from this faith. The resurrection vindicates and the promise of a final glorified humanity (Rom 8:29). What has happened to Christ foreshadows what will happen to humanity.

Prayer

God our Father, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour. May his resurrection from the dead strengthen us as we soldier on in following in his footsteps. Your Son rose triumphantly in a new and glorified body, opening the door for all of us into eternal life. Draw us Lord into the suffering and death of your Son, so that you may draw us into the glory of His resurrection. Give us the courage your Son had as He endured his passion. Help us to face the crosses in our own lives, so that we may have a share in His resurrection as well. May the resurrection of Jesus Christ your Son, be loved, embraced and proclaimed until the end of time. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.