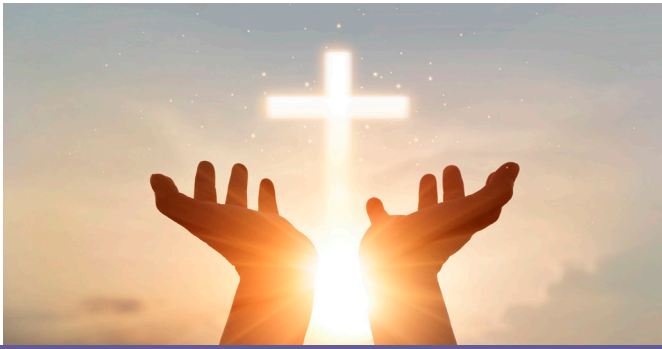


# Jubilaecum



Prayer Guide



## Gospel Text

A READING FROM THE HOLY  
GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (20:1-9)



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

A call to  
conversion!

7

[TO TRANSFORM  
MY LIFE, TO RENEW  
THE MISSION]

# Easter Sunday

Turn on a light...

Praying with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience



Tomb  
Risen

# Easter

# 2021

What do  
you want  
to reclaim-  
resurrect in  
yourself?



# Meditation and text of St. Paul of the Cross

(FROM HIS WRITINGS)

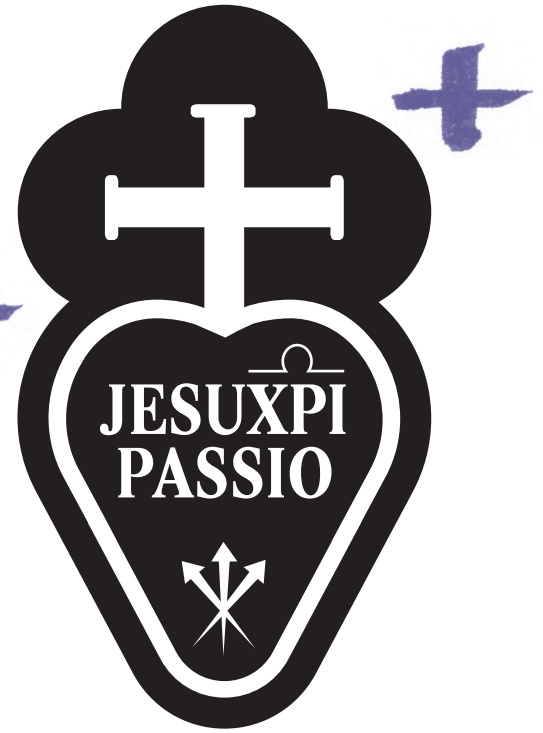
What enlightens and gives meaning to our faith in Christ Jesus is the event of his resurrection: *“The God of our ancestors raised Jesus, though you had him killed by hanging him on a tree.”* (Acts 5:30). God, passionate about the lives of his children, uttered his clearest and most definitive word concerning Jesus. He proved his fidelity to the Father and to the Kingdom, and his care for others. Jesus’ way of life is our gift and our task as Christians.



**While it was still dark...** Pale and dim light, similar to their faith. It seemed that everything was lost with the death of Jesus. There was little hope: *“... we hoped that he would be the liberator of Israel...”* (Lk 24:21). There is sadness, perplexity, and fear. It seemed that it would be better to take another path and redo history (Lk. 24:13-14). It is still the first day of the week, very early. A new era is beginning; it is the dawn of a new day. A new man and a new humanity are born from the open side of Jesus.

Prayer Guide

Praying with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience



**Mary of Magdala came to the tomb...** *“When he had risen, early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.”* (Mk.16:9) Mary of Magdala was a woman who deeply experienced her weakness, her fragility, the lack of meaning in her life. However, she found Christ and her life changed. We admire her promptness and sensitivity, her love and pain, as she searched for the corpse of Jesus to anoint it. Mary is a symbol of our continual searching as human beings-- What am I looking for, today, in my life? For whom am I looking?

**The stone removed from the tomb;** the tomb was empty-- *“They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.”* The message is clear-- Death has been conquered! What have we done today with the Risen Jesus in the Church and in the world? Who took Him? Is the Lord in whom we believe a Christ full of life that inspires hope in us or a Christ whose memory has gradually faded in our hearts and no longer enlivens us? The Risen One cannot be found by externally seeking rational evidence or authoritative documentaries; we find Him first and foremost through a personal faith experience.

**He saw and believed...** The risen One will become present through the reality that each one lives within him or herself because this is God’s way of being within each person: *“May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith”* (Eph 3:17). Jesus’ **beloved disciple**, without entering, saw the empty tomb, the burial cloths, and the shroud and believed that the Lord was risen. In Jesus’ absence

# Jubilaem

he discovers his presence. The same is not true of **Simon Peter**. He entered the tomb, saw the same things as the other disciple, but did not believe. He and the others would need apparitions and even need to touch Jesus in order to believe. It is as if “friendship” and “intimacy” could open their eyes of faith more effectively than authority or power. It is “love” that makes us witnesses and capable of rejoicing in the incredible, the invisible.

Today the world needs men and women committed and radically passionate about life. They are present, celebrating Easter, where death occurs. Celebrating Easter and believing in the Resurrection also requires that we read the signs of life among us: hope, joy, service, mercy, faith, prayer, liturgy, tenderness, and the efforts of so many who seek a more human society. This means following in the footsteps of the Risen One, recognizing Him in the one who lives next door and allowing oneself to be found by Him (Ulibarri FI).

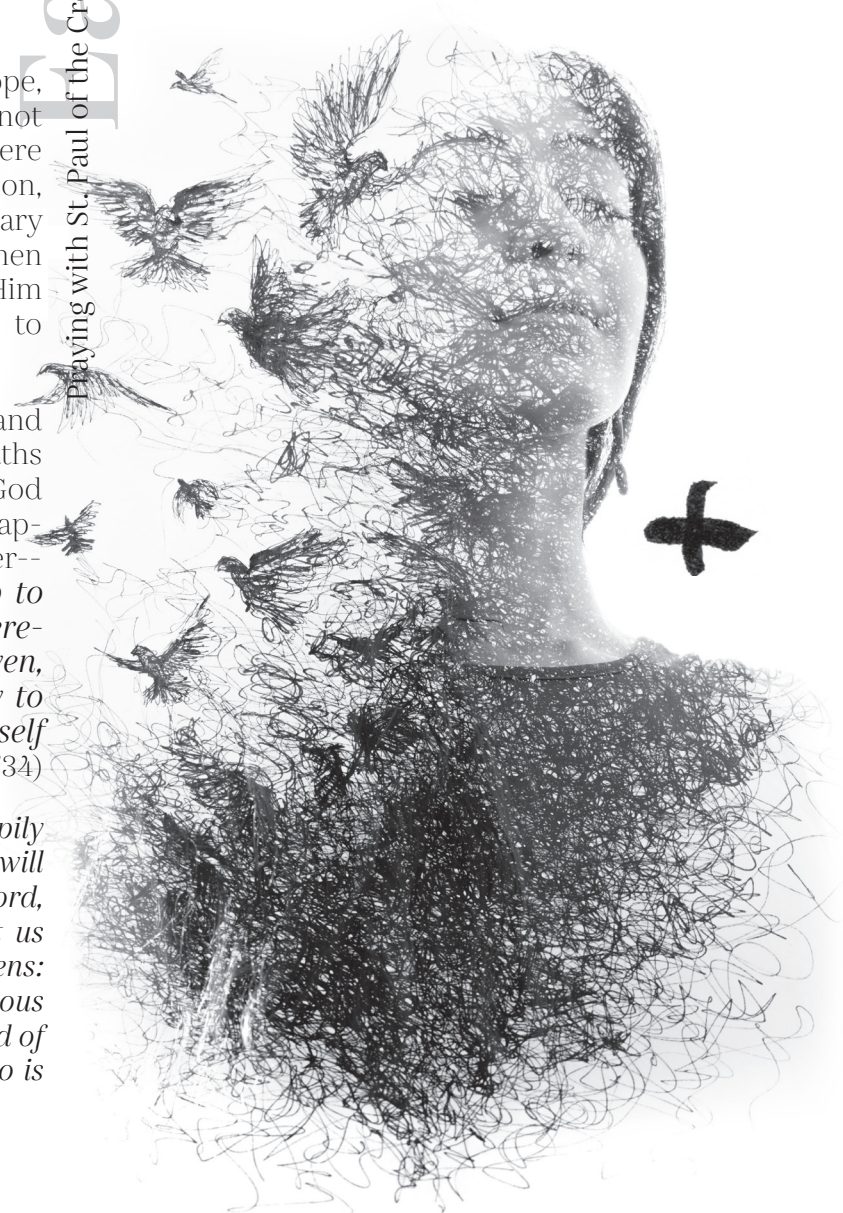
Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope, even when we search and strive, and still we do not seem to find anything. We may not know “where they have put him”. We try sharing our frustration, asking for help, and continuing to search like Mary Magdalene who finally found the Risen One when she was called by name and received from Him the mission of proclaiming his resurrection to others (Jn 20:11-18).

For St. Paul of the Cross, pain, suffering, and death, are not the end or goal of life, but paths to achieve more intimate union with God through love. The result is peace, joy, and happiness for the soul. He wrote to his mother--  
*“They who suffer for love of Christ help to carry the cross of Jesus Christ and, therefore, will be partakers in his glory in heaven, if they persevere. It is always necessary to ask for this in prayer and to dispose oneself so as to obtain this grace.”* (15 December 1734)

On another occasion he advised--*“Die happily through that precious mystical death and you will be reborn to a new divinized life in the divine Word, Christ Jesus”* (Mystical Death, XVII) Also, *“Let us then sing in the company of the Blessed Citizens: Alleluia! – Praise the Lord! Oh! what a victorious word that is! [...] To sing it one needs to be purged of one’s old self and clothed with the new self, who is Jesus Christ.”* (21 April 1726)

At the empty tomb I remember and relive my story: the quests, the encounters and the partings, the hopes and joys, the doubts and sufferings, my faith journey... In the light of Jesus’ resurrection, perhaps you will be able to begin to understand.

Rejoice because light and hope continue to flourish in so many people and places where the Lord is risen or is being resurrected. Thank God for it.





## Gesture

[LIGHT]

Turn off all the lights in the chapel or room and light a candle, while listening to the following song: "Enciende una luz" ("Turn on A Light"), by Mark Witt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xz07sP1Pfc>

*Light a candle and let it shine, / the light of Jesus shines in every place. / You cannot hide it; you cannot be silent regarding such a need. / Turn on a light in the dark.*

*As if to invoke the One in whom they have not believed / and how will they believe in Him of whom they have not heard, / and how they will hear if no one preaches to them.*

*Beautiful are the feet of those who proclaim / peace, The good news of Jesus.*

If appropriate, pass the candle from one to another, while each one says his name out loud, accompanied by a profession of faith: I (name), believe in ... and I want to be light for....

## Prayer Guide

## Prayer

Embrace me closely, Jesus of Nazareth. You who know about dread and agony; you who know about betrayal, failure, and setbacks, place your hand upon me and heal me. Jesus, dwell in the midst of human pain. You who know about persecution and exile, you who know about condemnation and martyrdom, come speak to us about becoming brothers and sisters.

Welcome the forgotten of the earth, listen to those who grieve over their failures, tenderly gaze upon them, keep guard over us during the night, brighten our days so that we never lose hope in the miracle of your empty grave.



Praying with St. Paul of the Cross according to the Castellazzo experience



# Easter

# Jubilaem