

# FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

June 7, 2024

## Gospel: John 19:31-37

Since it was the preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, for the Sabbath of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: *Not a bone of it will be broken.* And again another passage says: *They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*

## Reflection:

The Litany of the Sacred Heart contains language that reminds us of the real demand of discipleship: "Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love...of Whose fullness we have all received...patient and most merciful...obedient unto death...our life and resurrection." We have received fullness of life from God through the death and resurrection of Jesus; now we must be abodes of justice and love, patient and merciful, obedient even unto death. Although this solemnity speaks of God's great tenderness in loving us, even this has its demand. It is God's tenderness that encourages us to have our own hearts pierced so that others might receive the fullness of life through us. We can do this because God loved us first. (Living Liturgy, p.160)

## Vincentian Meditation:

What is the Vincentian call about? It's about three basic questions:

- Do we see the face of Christ in everyone we serve?
- Were we the good news of Jesus Christ to each person served?
- Most importantly, did every person that we served see Jesus in each of us?

This is what our Vincentian call is all about. It is what the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is all about. It is what Vincentian spirituality is all about. (Eugene Smith, National President)

## Discussion: (*Share your thoughts on the readings after a moment of silence*)

**How does devotion to the Sacred Heart help us to live out our Vincentian call?**

## Closing Prayer

- O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
**-give us the grace to be compassionate servants of the poor.**
- O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
**-give us the grace to be abodes of justice and love.**
- O Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
**-give us the grace to be patient and merciful. Amen**

