

God Desires that We Know Him

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It is always the intention of God that we should know Him. With God, there is always hope and new life. In God we find our highest significance.

- The Bible is filled with examples of how God takes us from death to life. It is not just ordinary life, but a life that is redeemed. In order to enjoy this redeemed life in God, we have to know Him and walk in His ways.
- This season of Lent affords us the opportunity to concretely experience God in a special way and also make more commitments to follow His way so that we can enjoy and appreciate the redeemed life.
- In all the Gospel readings in the last four Sundays, Jesus through the natural ways which He reveals Himself, made known how God is close to us even in everyday life.
- There is no doubt in the fact that He will continue to reveal Himself to us. He wants us to take a decision for Him and not otherwise. He wants us to know that in whatever situation, He does things for our own good.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14; is the event in which the people of God are given a hope out of their present experience of suffering in exile. The prophet makes them realize that the only thing that will help them is their holding fast to God.

- “Thus says the Lord God: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.”
- When one suffers the loss of the presence of God in his/her life on earth, it is a spiritual death. The opening of grave in this passage is not that they were six feet below the soil but it is the bringing back to life those who through sin are not enjoying the favors of God now, though they are not dead.
- God wants always to shower His favors on us, but sin deprives us from relishing these favors.
- God wants to reawaken the people who were politically and spiritually dead to a uniqueness of national identity and spiritual life. By their worshipping other gods and following the life style of other nations, they lost their identity as a chosen people of God. They were dead as a people, culturally and spiritually.
- The message of the prophet to them was to encourage them that all is not lost. God will restore them back to their land.
- “I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus, you shall know that I am the Lord. I have promised, and I will do it, says the Lord.”

Gospel: John 11:1-45; John’s Gospel is a call for us to lift our minds beyond the understanding of this world.

- Jesus is asking us to understand Him in a divine way and not just only from the point of view of the flesh.

- Jesus wants us to profess our faith like Martha did when she was told that her brother will rise. This scene happening in the home of Martha and Mary, could not have been in a better place. This is a home where Jesus was always there as a friend. Their profession of faith, shows that they not only see Him as human, but they know Him as Divine as well. Their trust in Him as Son of God, will lead others to acceptance of Him as the Christ.
- “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give you.”
- Jesus showed His compassion and empathy toward those grieving. He cried with Martha and Mary at the loss of their brother. He helped their faith as they professed Him as the Lord.
- “I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me if he dies, will live and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this” She said to Him, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God the one who is coming into the world.”

The readings of today, teach us that our sin is nothing before God if we repent and come back to Him.

- 2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11; calls us to repentance and conversion. We are called to live according to the Spirit and not the flesh.
- “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.”
- We have to know and acknowledge Him in our lives. In Jesus is resurrection and new life. Christ has come to show us the way of hope out of our despair just like Ezekiel showed the people hope through the raising of the dry bones to life.
- It is very important for us to have faith and express it like Martha and Mary did believing that their brother will rise again.
- God is also very close to us and will always show compassion and sympathize with us.