

Sunday, April 14, 2019. Morning. Aging parents must trust that their adult children will care for them, and we adult children must be worthy of that trust.

Afternoon. Our happiness depends on participating in relationships that are built on trust. Children need to be able to trust that the adults in their lives will take care of them. Adolescents need to be able to trust that their friends will not take advantage of or hurt them.

Evening. Spouses need to be able to trust that within their marriage is no infidelity, no addiction, no sabotage, no dysfunction and no controlling behavior. Each adult, regardless of whether called to marriage or not, needs to be able to trust that he or she, himself or herself, can lead a happy and healthy life free from emotional and psychological dysfunction.

Monday, April 15, 2019. Morning. Aging parents need to be able to trust that their adult children will care for them.

Afternoon. Trust. Less than a week from today, we begin the Divine Mercy Novena, most associated with the words "Jesus, I trust in you." Trust is so very essential in our loving God as well as in our loving our neighbor.

Evening. As we open ourselves up to and make ourselves vulnerable in countless relationships throughout our lives, we experience great joy when all parties live out these relationships in trust, and we experience great sorrow when anyone — whether ourselves or the other person — betrays the trust.

Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Morning. Make every effort to vet the people that you wish to trust. And make every effort to make yourself trustworthy.

Afternoon. From Palm Sunday: The soldiers cloth Jesus in resplendent garb. And in other Gospel readings they go further: Crowning him as if he were their king. Saluting him as if he were their king. Kneeling before him as if he were their king. All of this they did to mock Jesus.

Evening. Now let us assume that the soldiers had the opposite attitude. Let us assume that they had not an attitude of mocking, but one of loving adoration. Instead of crowning and saluting and kneeling before him, to mock him, they crowned and saluted and knelt before him in true worship. Then they would be open to what Jesus has to offer to them, namely their salvation.

Wednesday, April 17, 2019. Morning. Our sin is not going to be that of these soldiers and the crowd in general. We are not going to blaspheme Jesus by mocking him. If we suffer from any fault, it will most likely be simply letting the memory of this event, all of Holy Week, but most especially the upcoming next few days pass as do fifty-one other Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays pass every other week of the year.

Afternoon. So let us make that final push to focus on making this week special. Everything is in place for us. We only need to be mindful of what each day holds for us. On Thursday, we remember Jesus at the Last Supper. On Friday, we remember Jesus dying on the Cross. On Sunday, we remember how Jesus rose from the dead.

Evening. Let us enter fully into each of the next few days and be mindful of what Jesus did for us some two thousand years ago, the effects of which are available to us to this day, if we would only embrace them in a spirit of loving adoration.

Holy Thursday, April 18, 2019. Morning. One of the Apostles objects, "Jesus, you will never wash my feet." We understand the objection. Jesus (God) should not wash the feet of a mere mortal. How many times do we find ourselves objecting to what God intends?

Afternoon. When we find that we are objecting to what God intends, it is best for us to sit and ponder. Hopefully, things will become clear to us. Jesus explains his reasoning to the Apostle. “If I wash your feet, you are to wash one another’s feet.” If the Apostle had refused to allow Jesus to wash his feet, or if he had turned the tables and insisted on washing Jesus’ feet, he may never have come to understand Jesus’ words, “You are to wash one another’s feet.”

Evening. If we have a problem serving someone because we think ourselves greater than they, then let us learn from this evening’s Gospel. If in our fierce independence, we have a problem when we need someone to do something for us, let us learn from this evening’s Gospel. Jesus’ Washing of the Feet of the Apostles has so much to teach us.

Good Friday, April 19, 2019. Morning. At the beginning of human history, Adam and Eve sinned. Adam and Eve deserved to die for their sin. But that would be the end of the human race. So they who had previously been naked are suddenly clothed in skins of animals who had been killed (sacrificed) in their place (Genesis 3:21).

Afternoon. For generations after Adam and Eve, when people sinned, instead of them being killed as a punishment for their sin, a lamb was killed in their place (Leviticus 9). Lambs had to be killed time and time again, each time somebody sinned.

Evening. Jesus, being the Lamb of God, is the perfect sacrifice, once and for all. His one-time dying on the cross, 2000 years ago, took on the punishment that was due to everybody and anybody who had sinned past, present and future.

Saturday, April 20, 2019. Morning. Remembering back to Thursday evening... Jesus went out into the Garden and his humanity comes through clearly as he prays to his Heavenly Father, “If it is possible, let this cup pass from me.” Jesus asks to be spared the execution that he sees coming. If Jesus, being God, asked to be spared, so too will we find ourselves reluctant to accept the hardship that is sometimes asked of us.

Afternoon. But Jesus accepts that he will be executed on Good Friday. “But not as I will, but as you will.” So should we — after we have worked through the natural human reaction of wanting to avoid hardship — rise to the occasion and embrace what is being asked of us.

Evening. Fully embrace the hardship and know why we are submitting to it and believe in the good that can come out of our enduring it. For we may be taunted, as was Jesus taunted to come down off the cross and not carry through to the end. “Come down off the cross and save yourself (Mark 15:30).” It is the belief that God is calling us to endure this hardship that will empower us to carry it out to the end.