

Catholic Church Bulletin Insert

Revealing Peace & Justice through Scripture from – “In the beginning...” (Gn 1:1) to “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen!” (Rev 2:21)™

June 5, 2011

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7TH Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 12 - 14

1st Peter 4: 13 - 16

John 17: 1 – 11a

The epistle from 1st Peter 4: 13 – 16 is about an issue that people – even good Catholics and Christians don’t like to think about too much – **suffering!** The point is that “whoever is made to suffer as a Christian should not be ashamed but glorify God because of the name” (v 16).

Much has been written about suffering and the response that we are to give, in light of Christ’s suffering. I would like to point out two excellent resources (links included) that will give you a deeply insightful perspective on suffering.

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_11021984_salvifici-doloris_en.html

The Apostolic Letter – *Salvifici Doloris* – On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering. Issued by Pope John Paul II on February 11, 1984.

- “Christ suffers voluntarily and suffers innocently. Christ gives the answer to the question about suffering and the meaning of suffering not only by his teaching, that is by the Good News, but most of all by his own suffering () in an organic and indissoluble way”. (Pg 11 # 44)

<http://www.dioceseoffresno.org/> (Diocese of Fresno, CA)

Bishop John Steinbock of the Diocese of Fresno died of cancer on December 5, 2010. On the home page of the website is a summary of a deeply spiritual and pastoral letter titled – “The Affliction of Cancer – An Essay on a Christian Perspective”. A download of the entire letter is available at the bottom of the diocese homepage. It is written for the ages. In addition, it begins with this breathtaking sentence.

- Cancer of itself is not a gift, but the grace to accept it, embrace it, and give thanks for it, is the greater gift of God within me, so that Jesus may continue his passion in me, so that Jesus may continue to glorify His Father in me, so Jesus may testify to His great love in my life, so that we may realize that a greater life awaits us.

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