



EASTER TRIDUUM 2020

Being artisans of hope in the midst of the Covid-19 global pandemic

*In prayer we come to Him with everything that touches our life,
with the sufferings and hopes of humanity.*

*We learn to remain in silence and poverty of heart before Him.
In the free gift of ourselves we learn to adore and to abide in His love.*

RSCJ Constitutions #20

The JPIC International Team offers the Sacred Heart Family this prayer-and-reflection guide for Easter Triduum 2020. Inspired by *Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World*, it is our response to the worldwide call to prayer at this time of crisis.

This prayer-and-reflection guide interweaves two realities that we now live in our world today: 1) the Covid-19 global pandemic; and, 2) the call to hope in the midst of the anguish of suffering humanity and our wounded Earth.

Meant to supplement the Easter Triduum liturgies, it will not repeat the readings and symbols of this Paschal feast. We hope that those of you who wish to participate in online Holy Week celebrations have access to those that are being offered by your local churches.

We have prepared a two-page guide for each of the holy days (Thursday, Friday, and Saturday), inviting us to enter into prayer and silence, to touch the depth of the Paschal Mystery, and to be in solidarity with our suffering world and humanity.

This guide will be available in PDF format on *rscjinternational*, and will likewise be sent to Provincial Secretaries and WebLinks. We will be using different media that will invite you to different sites, and it will thus be helpful to have internet connection. There will also be opportunities for prayer as “One Body.” Finally, we encourage those who have “Zoom circles” to use these points for their virtual prayer and sharing groups.

For concerns and questions, please send a group email to the three email addresses below. We are in different time zones so there will always be someone who will be able to reply:

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HOLY THURSDAY

*Being artisans of hope in the midst of
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***Our broken, suffering world is bound together by fragile threads
that, together with others, we can strengthen.***

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 7.

Holy Thursday is an invitation to acknowledge our fragility and vulnerability, and to allow Jesus to “wash” these aspects of ourselves and of our world, just as he did with the feet of the disciples. (John 13: 1-17).

In the gospels, we see how Jesus entered into his deepest vulnerability during his agony (Mark 14: 32-42; Matthew 26: 36-46; Luke 22:39-46) and we have a glimpse of his profound love through his farewell discourses (John 13: 31 until the end of chapter 17).

Moment 1: *Acknowledging our fragility and vulnerability....
Allowing our “feet” to be washed by Jesus*

Jesus knew how tired his disciples were and how much they needed care — and so he washed their feet. Feet are often “hidden” by people — we do not usually show our feet to others. And yet, our feet symbolically tell us “where we are” and “where we have been.” Jesus can only touch the hearts of those who allow themselves to be vulnerable — those who show and allow him to wash what is “hidden.”

The Covid-19 global pandemic has exposed a lot of our fragility and vulnerability. As Pope Francis said in his meditation before the Urbi et Orbi blessing: “... *we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars of injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick.*”

For reflection:

What fragility and vulnerability has the Covid-19 global pandemic revealed to me?

- in myself
- my country, or region
- my community, or family, or circles of friends
- our Church
- my ministry, or work environment
- our world

How may I/we have been contributing, knowingly or unknowingly, to this fragility? In what way may I have been complicit in “hiding” this vulnerability?

Let us bring all this to prayer. We need not be afraid to acknowledge before Jesus what is hidden and vulnerable. His love can cleanse and heal our deepest wound.

“When we share experiences of vulnerability in a generative way, we open our hearts, minds, and wills to new perspectives and we unleash creativity for new ways of being and acting.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 13.

Moment 2: *Touching the agony and anguish of humanity and of our world*

In the gospel according to Mark, we see a very human Jesus in Gethsemane:

“... he said to his disciples, “Stay here while I pray. Then he took Peter and James and John with him. And he began to feel terror and anguish. And he said to them, “My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here and stay awake.” (Mark 14: 32-34)

For reflection:

Just as Jesus asked his disciples to stay with him in his agony, we are invited to stay with suffering humanity and our wounded world at this time of the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Call to mind what you may know or have read about people all over the world who are suffering due to Covid-19. Perhaps, there are even persons close to you who are directly affected by Covid-19.
- Remember Earth and her cries of anguish, and bring all these to prayer.

“The cry of our wounded earth demands urgent and deliberate response, and caring for this, our common home, is both a call and a witness to hope.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, pp. 24-25.

Moment 3: *Remaining in silence and poverty of heart before God....
Praying for mercy, healing, and hope....*

We invite you to participate in a prayer of adoration, wherever you may be in the world. [Click here](#) to register. Join the Sacred Heart Family in prayerful adoration. Together, let us be the “multitude of adorers from all the nations, to the very ends of the earth” that Saint Madeleine Sophie envisioned us to be.



GOOD FRIDAY

*Being artisans of hope in the midst of
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***In all the circumstances of our life, wherever our mission leads us,
our sole purpose in living is to glorify the Heart of Jesus,
to discover and make known His Love.***

RSCJ Constitutions, #179

Good Friday invites us “to look upon him who they have pierced” (John 19:37). The pierced heart of Jesus reveals the depth of God’s Love, a love large enough hold all the brokenness and blessedness of our world. Let us enter into Jesus’ open, welcoming heart, aware of our vulnerability, complicity and hope as we listen to a recital of Genevieve Behan rscj (ANZ). In it, she plays, *Erbarmedich, mein Gott (Have mercy on me God for the sake of my tears)*, a composition inspired by St. Matthew’s version of the Passion: <https://youtu.be/0VkpQUrK7eY>

Moment 1: *Recognizing the circumstances of our life...*

Whatever circumstance we are living, we share the same mission and the same *courage et confiance* as Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat and all those who have gone before us.

“We are rooted in and draw strength from the well of a very long tradition of working for justice and peace. Our spirituality impels us toward transformation through our contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus. This tradition binds us to one another and to others in our common efforts to act out of compassion in order to relieve suffering and effect change in our wounded world.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 5.

As Miren Lumbreras rscj (ESP) writes: “We are confronted with questions about this reality, about our life and our world. At the same time solidarity flows, and we see gestures of great humanity among neighbors and towards vulnerable people. There is so much gratitude and support for all the groups that work hard against this pandemic, especially the health workers. Creativity is awakened in response to difficulties. It is living death and resurrection continually.”

For reflection:

Whatever your circumstances, how are we living as One Body during the Covid-19 global pandemic? In your experience, how does the strength we draw from the *contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus impel us toward transformation?*

Moment 2: *Our sole purpose, the essential of our lives, is to live our mission.*

“Contemplation of the pierced Heart of Jesus in the heart of wounded humanity impels us to be in solidarity with the displaced and excluded; to defend the victims of abuse of power; and to commit ourselves to search for systemic changes.”

Statement of JPIC Commitment, Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 2.

The Covid-19 pandemic is a very long Good Friday moment for the entire global community. When we see our people living such experiences as described below, we are called again to live our mission to glorify the Heart of Jesus, to discover and make known His Love.

As many as 300 million of India’s 1.37 billion people are homeless daily wage earners. Was there ever a thought of the plight of these people and their children when a nationwide curfew was ordered overnight? Our leaders repeatedly ask people to stay at home. Where will the homeless go to lockdown? Who will provide them food for all these days without working?

(Rita Pinto rscj, IND)

The coming of the coronavirus adds to the misery of majority of the people. All institutions in Chad and RDC are closed. The population is very well informed about contamination and its prevention, but the support measures are very deficient. Majority live by subsistence, so they have to go out everyday to get food. Over 80% of the population do not have places where they can get what they need, and they do not have access to water making washing hands difficult.

(Elysee Masala rscj, RDC-TCH)

For reflection:

In your context, what is the global pandemic revealing about the reality of “Good Friday” with or without Holy Week or a global pandemic? What are we hearing from those whose dignity is violated and who are stripped of their basic human rights and are poor, hungry, homeless, unemployed, etc.?

Moment 3: *Caring for our common home...*

The reality of the global Covid-19 pandemic calls us ever more urgently to also care for Earth and to see ourselves as One Body with her. When we care for Mother Earth, she can care for us. Our damaging behaviour toward her strips away her ability to care for us. The ecological impact of the Covid-19 lockdowns reveals Earth healing herself. This is a direct impact of the diminishment of ecologically destructive human activity. How is Earth calling us to hope?

“Caring for our common home is also a call to hope. As members of the Sacred Heart family, we recognize the broken body of Christ in the broken and suffering earth. The water that flows from the pierced Heart of Jesus transforms our perception of one another, our world, ourselves and our common home.”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 16.

We invite you to send to us the stories, quotes, photos that express the hidden hope within the Good Friday moment created by the global Covid-19 pandemic.

HOLY SATURDAY



*Being artisans of hope in the midst of
the Covid-19 global pandemic*

***Our spirituality impels us toward transformation through our
contemplation of the pierced heart of Jesus.***

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 5.

“Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives filling everything with a deafening silence...”

Pope Francis’ meditation before the Urbi et Orbi blessing, March 2020

This is an Easter like no other we have had before. Pope Francis creates the atmosphere of Holy Saturday in his description of our reality. We have often heard the question, “In this frightening situation, how can we be artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world?” Three key perspectives from “*Being Artisans of Hope*” give us a framework for reflection and the voices of our sisters echo in the silence of the empty tomb. Listen.

Moment 1: *What do we hear from the Society in the silence of the tomb?*

Read the updates from some of the provinces / districts / areas: [Click here.](#)

- ▶ We are grieved by the reality of those without resources.
- ▶ We are in profound prayerful solidarity with one another especially with countries such as Italy and Spain and the United States where the virus has been most devastating.
- ▶ Our call to be One Body is deepened.

This crisis gives flesh to the words transformation and interconnection, so crucial to understanding of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation. We are called to balance courage with distress and anxiety.

Moment 2: *How can we prioritise needs and nurture hope during this time of chaos and fear in the world?*

“We are called to a new moment of awareness and to express ... in concrete ways as artisans of hope, an ethic of caring...”

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 12.

In the echoes from the Society we hear about our concern for our elderly sisters and their carers, the need to promote our communication systems for the sake of connection, information-sharing and even for nurturing our hearts; where possible we are reaching out to others who need food and other resources that are difficult to access.

'Being Artisans of Hope' explores the question of how we stand in solidarity with those at the 'frontiers'. In this situation, let us pray for all healthcare workers caring for the sick and the dying, for all who continue the essential services in our communities, for researchers who are working with such urgency to find a vaccine for this coronavirus, and for political leaders who need to make decisions to protect their people..

As we live the fragility of our global community how are we witnessing to hope?

"May God satisfy our longing for the peace of the risen Christ and fill our hearts with hope."

Based on Holy Saturday Evening Intercessions from 'Give Us this Day' (April 2020)

Moment 3: *How can we re-commit to living our charism in this period?
How can we see beyond this present crisis?*

"This ... is another new beginning where we now give life to the imperatives in the next phase of this JPIC journey: that of living together the call to be artisans of hope in our blessed and broken world."

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 25.

"Lord, send out your spirit and renew the face of the earth."

Response to Psalm 104 in the Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word

Holy Saturday is a liminal space where we are living the reality of the present but also imagining the time when this is over. Will we return to 'normal' or will there be a new way of living? What will we have learned from this experience? About cooperation, community, trust, generosity, love?

*"May the light of Christ rising in glory;
dispel the darkness of our hearts, our minds (and our world). Amen."*

From the Holy Saturday Blessing of the Fire and preparation of the Paschal candle.

Finish with a song: (Click on the title to access the song on YouTube.)

English: [God of Day and
God of Darkness](#)

French: [Ta nuit sera
lumière de midi](#)

Spanish: [Confía](#)

"Each time we realize that transformation is ultimately the work of the Spirit, that power is a share in the Spirit's energy, and that hope is a gift that we receive from the Spirit."

Being Artisans of Hope in Our Blessed and Broken World, p. 9.