

## Spirituality Commission

### Christ Has Risen Alleluia – He Has Risen Indeed!

Easter is not just a day but 50 days. So, for the next 50 days you can greet people with “Happy Easter”. Some people may look at you and try to correct you, and when they do, I challenge you to use it as an opportunity to evangelize to them. Take it as your personal “Road to Emmaus”, explain what Jesus did for them, and for the whole world.

Easter Monday this year was quite a shock to the world with the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. With his funeral being today, let us keep him in our prayers and remember what he taught throughout his pontificate, to reach out to the poor, the prisoners, the forgotten, the ignored. They are all part of the Church, the Body of Christ. We also need to pray for the College of Cardinals as they enter into this Conclave to elect a new pope. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide them to the person most appropriate for our time now. Please see the handout “Prayer for the Election of the Supreme Pontiff”.

***“The more you honor me the more I shall bless you.”*** This is a promise from the Infant of Jesus of Prague. The devotion to the Christ child dressed in kingly garb is from Spanish origin and has been a tradition since 1555.

According to tradition, St. Teresa of Avila gave a statue of the Christ child, dressed in actual royal robes to a noblewoman who was marrying into an aristocratic family in Bohemia. Taking it with her to what is now the city of Prague, her daughter, the Princess Polysenia inherited it. In 1623, Princess Polysenia was widowed and chose to devote the rest of her life to charitable causes. When she saw the need that the poverty-stricken Carmelite order had, she donated the statue to them, saying, “I give you my dearest possession. As long as you venerate this image, you will not lack anything.” The monks credited this image with the immediate upturn of their fortunes. When they were forced out of their monastery due to a war in 1631, they left the statue behind and the invading army threw it in a rubbish heap. Within seven years the Carmelites were back in their monastery in Prague, desperately attempting to rebuild it. One monk, Fr. Cyril, who had a particularly strong devotion to the Divine Infant found the little wax statue among the rubble. The only damage done to the statue was its crushed hands.

It was decided that the scarce funds the community had should go to more practical things than the repair of a statue. As the monks struggled to rebuild their former home and church, Fr. Cyril heard the words: “Have pity on me and I will have pity on you. Give me my hands and I shall give you peace.” After the statue

was repaired, the monks again displayed it in the main church. As the city of Prague suffered an epidemic, parishioners began invoking the little statue for aid. The quick answer to their prayers brought many in the surrounding region to seek help. Gradually, the devotion spread to many other countries. Today, the church in Prague built to hold the statue, Our Lady of Victory, is a site of pilgrimage with visitors from all over the world paying their respects to the Divine Infant.

<https://novena.com/2014/01/13/the-infant-of-prague>

Novenas to the Infant of Prague can be prayed for financial stability, comfort in anxiety, spiritual darkness, hope in despair to name a few. In cases of dire emergency, the novena is said all in one day, once every nine hours.