



South Sudan Office: P.O. Box 144, Juba, South Sudan

International Headquarters: Piazza di Ponte S. Angelo, 28 - 00186 Rome, Italy

The Paschal Mystery, we know, is the mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. But how often do we meditate on that fact that it is also the mystery of our own participation in death and resurrection? And, we might say, not just the finality of earthly death, at the end of our lives, and the promise of ultimate resurrection in Christ, but the many small deaths and resurrections that we experience in the Christian life.

I am sure that all of our readers know exactly what I mean. "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12:24). Each of us is invited to die to self in small ways every day. We have to make a decision to let go of our ego and self-serving tendencies so that we have the capacity to bring new life to others, and, in the process of that gift of self, to experience it ourselves. And the Paschal Mystery teaches us that this process—while it is one that we sometimes find painful and often resist—is the key to new life, for others **and** for ourselves. Through the gift of baptism and our commitment to the evangelical counsels, we are invited to enter into this reality in a deep and profound way.

The text of a beautiful hymn by the Monks of Weston Priory in Vermont USA describes well this dynamic:

Many the deaths, Lord, that weave through our life.

Beyond all anguish you wait:

we rise in light.

Deep in our heart, Lord, we hunger for truth and

freedom to grow strong in love:

to give others life.

1. Take us to the wide and open land of new life.

Name us with new names and we shall revel in joy.

With the loneliness of pain where do we go?

Is there meaning in the many faces of death?

2. Born of spirit we renew our choice to live

in the risenness of Jesus, light of our life.

Peace, the bread we share and joy the wine that we drink:

feast for all who seek to know God's presence on earth.

Rome Operational Office: Lungotevere Tor di Nona 7 | 00186 | Rome

Email to solidarityssudan@gmail.com

Website: www.solidarityssudan.org



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I wish all of you an abundance of Easter Joy throughout the great fifty days!

Father Dave Gentry

Mission Promoter

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