

Ghejjun ta' Ilma Frisk u Dejjem Haj

Holqa bejn il-Hbieb ta' Missirijiet il-Knisja
ppubblikata mis-Socjeta' Patristika Maltija

Nru 24 26 ta' Marzu 2020

Kelmtejn bejn il-Hbieb

Għeżejż ħbieb,

Nittama li tinsabu tajbin u f'saħħitkom. Qegħdin f'Randan għal kollex partikulari, Randan li ma ppjanajniehx b'dan il-mod. L-imxija li ġġib l-isem *Novel Coronavirus*, jew *COVID-19*, fi ftit ġimġhat bidlet għal kollex l-istil tal-ħajja ta' biljuni ta' bnedmin madwar id-dinja.

Il-Ğimgħa Mqaddsa fil-Gżejjer tagħna se tkun għal kollex differenti għax ir-religjożità popolari se tkun nieqsa għal kollex. Però dan ma jfissirx li ma nkomplux ngħixu bl-aħjar mod dan iż-żmien qaddis. Fadal ftit aktar minn ġimaginej biex jintemm ir-Randan u l-Ğimgħa Mqaddsa. Minkejja dan kollu li għaddej madwarna, xorta waħda nistgħu ningħabru fina nfusna biex nirriflettu fuq il-mixja Nisranija tagħna fid-dawl tal-Misteru tat-Tbatija, il-Mewt u l-Qawmien ta' Ģesù. Mħumiex biss il-vari tal-Ğimgħa l-Kbira u l-purċiżjonijiet, jew is-Seba' Viżti, jew il-ġirja bl-Irxoxt li jagħmlu dan iż-żmien. Hemm mixja aktar profonda minn dan kollu – hemm il-mixja tal-qalb tagħna mal-Mulej Ģesù fit-Tridu Qaddis tal-Għid, speċjalment waqt l-Aħħar Ċena, il-Hasil tar-Riglejn, l-Agunija fl-Ort ... sal-Via Crucis, il-Kalvarju ... u l-Qawmien tiegħu fl-Ewwel Jum tal-Ğimgħa.

Kemm-il darba, ippruvajt inġib quddiem ghajnejja dak li kieku kienu jiktbu l-Missirijiet tal-Knisja kieku sabu ruħhom f'ċirkustanzi li jixbhu lil dawk li ninsabu fihom. *F'din il-ħarġa qed inwasslukom għadd ta' siltiet li huma ta' ispirazzjoni għalina f'dan iż-żmien ta' pandemija.*

Kif tafu (u kif inhu ovvju), *l-Irtir organizzat mis-Socjetà Patristika fit-28 ta' dan, kellu jithħassar*. Kienu digħi applikaw għadd sabiħ ta' persuni, u kellna programm sabiħ iffukk fuq is-siltiet bibliċi tal-Ħadd li ġej, il-Hames Hadd tar-Randan, partikularment is-silta ta' Eżekjel 37:12-14 (“*niftaħ l-oqbra tagħkom u ntellagħkom mill-oqbra tagħkom*”), u s-silta ta' Ĝwanni 11:1-45 (*meta ġesù jagħti l-ħajja mill-ġdid lil Lazzru*). Nirringrażza lil Dun Stefan Attard u lil Dun Jonathan Farrugia li kienu ilhom li aċċettaw li jaqsmu magħna r-riflessjoni tagħhom dwar iż-żewġ siltiet. Tkun darb'oħra, jekk Alla jrid!

L-aħħar kelma tiegħi lilkom, għal-lum, hi *li nfittxu dak li huwa tassew essenzjali f'dak kollu li joffrulna dawn il-jiem, speċjalment fis-siltiet tal-Kelma ta' Alla – li l-qalb ċkejkna u miżera tagħna tfitħex li tkun aktar qrib tal-Qalb kollha mħabba tal-Fedjej tagħna, fl-ghotja infinita tiegħu lil kull wieħed u waħda minna.*

Dun Hector Scerri
President

Hsibijiet għar-Randan

Minn San ġwann Damaxxenu

Ninsab quddiem il-bieb tal-Knisja tiegħek,
u ma nistax neħħles mill-ħsibijiet qarrieqa.

Int, O Kristu, li ġġustifikajt lill-pubblikan, li wrejt mogħdrija lill-adultera,
li ftaħt lill-ħalliel il-bibien tal-ġenna, iftaħ it-teżor tat-tjubija tiegħek.

Minn Tertulljanu

It-talb hu sagrifċċju ħiereġ mill-qalb, imsaħħa bil-fidi u mħejji mill-verità; sagrifċċju shiħ u bla ghajb, safi u bla tebgha; sagrifċċju, imżejjen bl-imħabba, li nwasslu fuq l-altar ta' Alla, f'purċissjoni ta' għemejjel tajba, fost il-kant tas-salmi u l-innijiet, biex naqilgħu mingħand Alla kull ma nixtiequ.

Radju Marija 102.3FM

Minħabba l-miżuri prekawzjonali li ttieħdu fl-aħħar ġimġħat, ma kienx possibbli li jibdew isiru r-recordings tal-iskeda l-ġdid li soltu ntellgħu minn April sa Ġunju.

Konna qed naħdmu biex l-iskeda tkun dwar il-ktieb *Id-Duttrina Nisranija* ta' Santu Wistin. L-ġħan tagħna kien u għadu li nħejju s-semmiegħha ta' Radju Marija għall-kors ippreżżentat mill-Istitut Agostinjan minn Ottubru li ġej.

Iż-żmien u c-ċirkustanzi jagħtuna parir dwar dak li jista' jsir fil-ġimġħat u x-xhur li ġejjin. Sadanittant, Radju Marija se jkun qed itella' programmi tagħna mill-Arkivju. 'Il quddiem, nagħtukom aktar dettalji dwar dan ... jiġifieri, hinijiet tax-xandiriet u s-suġġett.

Il-Missirijiet tal-Knisja dwar il-Mard u l-Imgieba tan-Nisrani

Nixtieq naqsam magħkom ghadd ta' siltiet li sibt fuq is-sit elettroniku <http://orthochristian.com/106274.html> -- dawn huma siltiet minn Missirijiet il-Knisja u li jistgħu jkunu ta' għajjnuna fir-riflessjoni tagħna f'dawn il-ġimġħat u xħur. Hallejthom, kif sibthom, bl-ilsien Ingliż, fil-ġabra "The Holy Fathers on Illness" ta' Fr Alexey Young. Is-sit elettroniku fih ħafna u ħafna aktar minn dawn li qed ingħib.

St Ambrose of Milan says of the Christian attitude toward sickness: "If the occasion demands it, a wise man will readily accept bodily infirmity and even offer his whole body up to death for the sake of Christ... This same man is not affected in spirit or broken with bodily pain if his health fails him. He is consoled by his struggle for perfection in the virtues" (*Exegetical Works*).

As **St John Cassian** teaches:

God "leads you on by a still higher step to that love which is free of fear. Through this you begin effortlessly and naturally to observe all those things you originally observed out of fear of God and punishment, but now you do them no longer from fear of punishment, but from love of Goodness itself, and delight in virtue" (*Institutes*).

The Heavenly Physician "made the body [of man] subject to much suffering and disease, so that man might learn from his very nature than he must never again entertain the thought" that he could be like unto God (**St John Chrysostom**, *Homily 11, On the Statues*).

"When the soul is afflicted by disease we usually feel no pain," **St John Chrysostom** says. "But if the body suffers only a little, we make every effort to be free of the illness and its pain. Therefore, God corrects the body for the sins of the soul, so that by chastising the body, the soul might also receive some healing... Christ did this with the Paralytic when He said: *Behold, thou art made whole; sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.* (*Homily 38, On the Gospel of St John*).

"Anyone who is sick should seek the prayer of others, that they may be restored to health; that through the intercession of others the enfeebled form of the body and the wavering footsteps of our deeds may be restored to health... Learn, you who are sick, to gain health through prayer. Seek the prayer of others, call upon the Church to pray for you, and God, in His regard for the Church, will give what He might refuse to you" (**St Ambrose**, *On the Healing of the Paralytic*).

St Gregory Nazianzen, a great man of prayer even when his health was good, exclaimed during his last illness: "The time is swift, the struggle is great, and my sickness severe, reducing me nearly to immovability. What then is left but to pray to God?" (*Letters*).

St Ambrose of Milan compared an infirm body to a broken musical instrument. He explained how the "musician" can still produce God-pleasing "music" without his instrument: "If a man used to singing to the accompaniment of a harp finds the harp broken, and its strings undone... he puts it aside and instead of calling for its notes he delights himself with his own voice.

"In the same way, a sick man allows the harp of his body to lie unused. He finds delight within his heart and comfort in the knowledge that his conscience is clear. He sustains himself with God's words and the prophetic writings and, holding these sweet and pleasant in his soul, he embraces them with his mind. Nothing

can happen to him because God's graceful presence breathes favour upon him... He is filled with spiritual tranquillity" (*Jacob and the Happy Life*).

St Ambrose attributed this prayer to the Apostle Matthew, upon the occasion of the Apostle's conversion.

Thee alone I follow, Lord Jesus, who heals my wounds. For what shall separate me from the love of God, which is in Thee! Shall tribulation, or distress, or famine? I am held fast as though by nails, and fettered by the bonds of charity. Remove from me, O Lord Jesus, with Thy potent sword, the corruption of my sins. Secure me in the bonds of Thy love; cut away what is corrupt in me. Come quickly and make an end of my many, my hidden and secret afflictions. Open the wound lest the evil humour spread. With Thy new washing, cleanse in me all that is stained. Hear me, you earthly men, who in your sins bring forth drunken thoughts: I have found a Physician. He dwells in Heaven and distributes His healing on earth. He alone can heal my pains Who Himself has none. He alone Who knows what is hidden, can take away the grief of my heart, the fear of my soul—Jesus Christ. Christ is grace, Christ is life, Christ is Resurrection! Amen.