

## Reflection for Monday of 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter 2020

Once released by the Sanhedrin, the apostles prayed for the spirit of Jesus to give them guidance and courage to preach the Good News because they were filled with an overwhelming desire to share the love and goodness of God they had received through Jesus Christ. John tells us that, unless we are baptised in the Spirit, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. There are three recognised forms of Baptism. The **baptism** we have received **with water** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is also the **baptism by desire**. Someone who has accepted Christ as their redeemer and saviour but has no one to baptise them with water. And thirdly **baptism by blood**. In the early church, and other parts of the world since, many catechumens, who had not been baptised but were in the process of becoming Christians, were put to death for their faith. We believe that, through his death and resurrection, Jesus saved everybody both before his resurrection as well as afterwards. Scripture and various Popes has repeatedly taught that all are saved:

*In the Holy Spirit, every individual and all people have become, through the Cross and Resurrection of Christ, children of God, partakers in the divine nature and heirs to eternal life. All are redeemed and called to share in glory in Jesus Christ, without any distinction of language, race, nation or culture. The Good News which Christ proclaimed and which the Church continues to proclaim, in accordance with the Lord's will, must be preached "to all creation" and "to the ends of the earth".* John Paul II

*God our Saviour...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony to which was borne at the proper time. ... For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all.* St Paul's Letters to Timothy and Titus

*By his glorious Cross Christ has won salvation for all. He redeemed them from the sin that held them in bondage. ... Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all have the same nature and the same origin. Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity.* C. Catechism (1741, 1934)

*"On the contrary, the Lord has created us in His image and likeness, and has given us this commandment in our heart: Do good and do not do evil. The Lord has redeemed all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! 'Father, what about the atheists?' Even the atheists. Everyone! And this Blood makes us first class children of God! We are created children in the likeness of God and the Blood of Christ has redeemed us all! And we all have a duty to do good. And this commandment for everyone to do good, I think, is a beautiful path towards peace. If we, with everyone doing his own part; if we do good to others, if we meet there, doing good, and we go slowly, gently, little by little, we will make that culture of meeting: we need that so much. We must meet one another doing good. 'But I don't believe, Father, I am an atheist!' But do good! We shall meet there."* Pope Francis