

## Refection Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Easter 2022

The Gospel of John offers us many contrasts: Light and Darkness, Good and Evil, Spirit and Flesh, War and Peace, Welcome and Persecution, Love and Hate. Although these contrasts are presented in opposition to each other, the negative element can also help clarify and magnify the importance and value of the good element. Throughout life we live in a constant state of tension which can be used for the good but can also wear us down.

In the case of Good vs Evil, we can spend our lives fighting against evil or devote our lives to promoting and fostering the Good so that there is not room for evil to take hold. Thus, the presence of evil can spur us on to make greater efforts in doing good. Often doing good involves eradicating the sources that cause evil to take hold. A good analogy is in medicine, where more and more work is done to educate people in living healthily, developing a preventative approach to illness rather than just dealing with its consequences. In the Church, greater effort work is given to educating parents in the faith so that they can better teach their children rather than just teach the children.

In speaking about persecution today Jesus makes clear that along with the successes of conversion, the welcome offered by communities and the subsequent Joy found in baptism, there would be opposition some of which would be not only hostile but brutal even to the loss life. Jesus was a realist and wanted his followers and us to be realists too. On its own the short passage today can appear rather depressive but Jesus also says he will always be with us, especially in the most difficult and hostile of times, and that the Holy Spirit will give us the wisdom and the guidance we will need. Jesus always keeps his promises!!

### **Rooted in Trust**

*I, like a green olive tree in the house of God, trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. Ps 52:10*

The psalmist alludes to the truth that there is much in this world that could frighten us. There are those who love evil more than good. As we look around the world today, it might seem as though not too much has changed. And yet, for those who desire to walk the path of life, the psalmist offers a striking portrayal of how we might appear to God. We are like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God. A deeply rooted trust in God's mercy can be found in us. Make an effort to believe that these words are true of you. Sometimes we have to practice believing before something comes true in our lives. Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S.B.