



**Meditation/Reflection to observe
2023 WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE
—Pro Orantibus Day (“For Those Who Pray”)—**

Serving the God of the Living

Gospel Reading: Lk 20:27-40

Some Sadducees, those who deny that there is a resurrection, came forward and put this question to Jesus, saying,

“Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone’s brother dies leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother.

Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman but died childless.

Then the second and the third married her, and likewise all the seven died childless.

Finally the woman also died. Now at the resurrection whose wife will that woman be? For all seven had been married to her.”

Jesus said to them, “The children of this age marry and remarry; but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage.

They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise.

That the dead will rise even Moses made known in the passage about the bush, when he called ‘Lord’ the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; and He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him all are alive.”

Some of the scribes said in reply, “Teacher, you have answered well.”

And they no longer dared to ask Him anything.

Reflection:

In today’s Gospel passage, the Sadducees, conservative interpreters of the Law who did not hold to a belief in the bodily resurrection of the just and the existence of spirits, challenge Jesus regarding life after death.

In a concentrated effort to trick and trap Our Lord, the Sadducees pose a hypothetical case that they think will force Him either to renounce the resurrection or allow polyandry, which is considered immoral.



Knowing their intent, Jesus replies that the succession of husbands is a problem for the Sadducees because they fail to comprehend the meaning of the resurrection. They simply do not understand that in Heaven the marriage relationship will be transcended by an even deeper relationship that will not involve procreation. Rather it will be rooted in an eternal union with God who alone suffices.

The celebration of WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE—traditionally known as *Pro Orantibus* Day (“for those who pray”)—highlights those women and men who freely dedicate themselves to hidden lives of prayer and penance. In this way, these chosen souls “serve the God of the living” by witnessing to the world the eschatological reality of the Kingdom already but not yet. Their lives boldly testify to “the coming age” where everything will be united to God in an eternal and everlasting embrace.

The Memorial of the Presentation of Mary reminds us that as a young girl, Our Lady dedicated herself to the service of God in the Temple. By means of continual prayer and selfless service, she offered herself as a gift so that God’s plan of salvation might later be made manifest by her unconditional “Yes” when asked to become the Mother of the Redeemer.

Today, let us pray for all those women and men who have lovingly embraced the cloistered and monastic life. May they continually give of themselves by contemplative lives marked with silence and solitude, generosity and grace.

Let us also beg the Lord of the Harvest to inspire many more young people to respond to this sublime calling so that the Kingdom may indeed begin here on earth and be fulfilled in the life to come.

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