

APRIL 14, 2017



FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)



ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

PSALM 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25

HEBREWS 4:14–16; 5:7–9

JOHN 18:1–19:42

REFLECTION

Imagine yourself in the cafeteria or at an afterschool activity and you see someone bullying your best friend. Instead of going to help him or her, you pretend that you don't know or are even aware of what is going on. This happens several times, while he or she looks at you with deep sadness. Now imagine you are the one who is bullied and your best friend ignores you. This is what Peter did to Jesus on the day of his death. Peter was approached three times and asked if he was one of Jesus' friends. Out of fear, Peter responded "no." Jesus knew this would happen—he even warned Peter that it would take place. Yet, even in his denial, Jesus still loved Peter and entrusted him with the great responsibility of building his Church. God used this man who made some bad choices in incredible ways because he repented and humbled himself before God.



ACTION

Today we remember the ultimate sacrifice God paid to redeem us from sin and reveal to us his mercy. The story of Peter is only one of many stories in the Bible in which God called a sinner to do great work for his people. Take, for example, the Apostle Paul, who, at one time, had persecuted Christians. After a conversion of heart, Paul became one of the greatest writers in the New Testament. What these people have in common is their deep faith and their ability to repent for their wrongdoings. Taking after them, take part in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week and then go out in the world to do great things!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Take time to examine your conscience. What are the things that have come between you and God? What will you do to try and make different decisions in the future?
- One of my favorite anonymous quotes is "Sometimes, the best prayer you can say is 'thank you.'" Take some time to thank God for his Son. What does Jesus' sacrifice mean to you? How will you honor this sacrifice by going out and spreading his Good News?