

THE RESURRECTION

Have you noticed that a plethora of material suddenly emerges every year at this time, challenging our religious beliefs? It almost appears as if this were a deliberate affront, scheduling such “revelations” during a time that is most sacred to Christians. For example, the “Gospel of Judas” was not discovered yesterday. It has been around for a good while. So, why bring it up now?

There are programs being shown on television, there are stories appearing in newspapers, there are new books being published, and movies ready for release right at this time. It all boils down to an attack on our Faith. You are asked to believe that Jesus did not die on the cross but actually ran away to France with Mary Magdalene. You are challenged to imagine that Jesus and Judas conspired in the crucifixion. Moreover, “code” or no “code” – DaVinci’s or someone else’s, Jesus’ formula for our salvation is quite simple and already very public.

Thus, a denial of Christ’s resurrection continues to this day. It began at the tomb on that first Easter Sunday. Remember, even the Apostles were accused of stealing Jesus’ body “while the guards were sleeping.”

So, be ready for the onslaught. Do not allow yourself to be disturbed by it. Such misinformation and disinformation has been around since the time of Jesus. What bothers me is the notion that today’s sensationalizing of Jesus is about making a profit. It is not so much a matter of searching for the truth.

Nevertheless, if there is any redeeming value in all of this, it could be that Jesus is being treated as a historical figure. In other words, He truly did exist. History records it, and not only in Sacred Scripture. That is refreshing. Furthermore, Jesus must be very important to merit so much attention, even by those who do not accept him as the Christ. That, too, is refreshing.

For us, who accept the co-existing divinity and humanity in Jesus, the reality of the resurrection does not present a difficulty. As a matter of fact, the resurrection is fundamental to our Faith. Without the resurrection, our Faith is groundless.

We enter into the Easter Season. It is a celebration of Jesus' victory for life, which is now our victory. However, we ought not to forget that the resurrection had to be preceded by the way of the cross. It can be no different in our journey. Jesus did not come to save us from the difficulties of life but to save us through them. It is in suffering that one learns how to love. It is that kind of love, which leads us into a deeper relationship with our God.

Christ showed us the way. His love for us, radiating from his agony on the cross, blossomed into an Easter life. ALLELUIA! This Easter, as all Easters, is a special time for us to become more and more aware of the fact that we are a people of the resurrection and of life. In this, we rejoice and, for this, we give thanks.