

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



Lets follow the Via Dolorosa
The Stations of the Cross

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



2



3

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



4



5

MK 15:21 - **Simon Cyrenian**
father of Alexander and
Rufus

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



6



Chapel 6th station

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

7



THE WAY OF THE CROSS



Read Luke 23: 27-31*

- Jewish tradition in Talmud forbade wailing for people condemned to death.
- Jesus death is for the good of mankind, but seals the fate of Jerusalem. cf. Lk 19:41
- It will be so bad, that people will wish they didn't have children, and could die another way - *such as by a mountain falling on them!*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



8

- **Green Wood** - that which attached to the vine, produces fruit.
- **Dry Wood** - detached and dead, this wood bears no fruit and therefore is to be burned. cf Jn 15:11-6

- The stone is carved with a cross and the Roman Letters **IC** and **XC** representing the first and last letters of the Greek words **IHCOCYC** (IHCOYΣ) and **XPICTOC** (XPICTOC) meaning “Jesus” and “Christ” Below is the word **NIKA** – a Romanized version of the **Greek NIKE**, meaning ‘victory’

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



9

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

10

Tenth Station
is already
inside the
church of the
Holy Sepulchre

Jesus is stripped
of his
clothes



THE WAY OF THE CROSS



11

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



12

- 12th Station - Site of the Crucifixion -

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

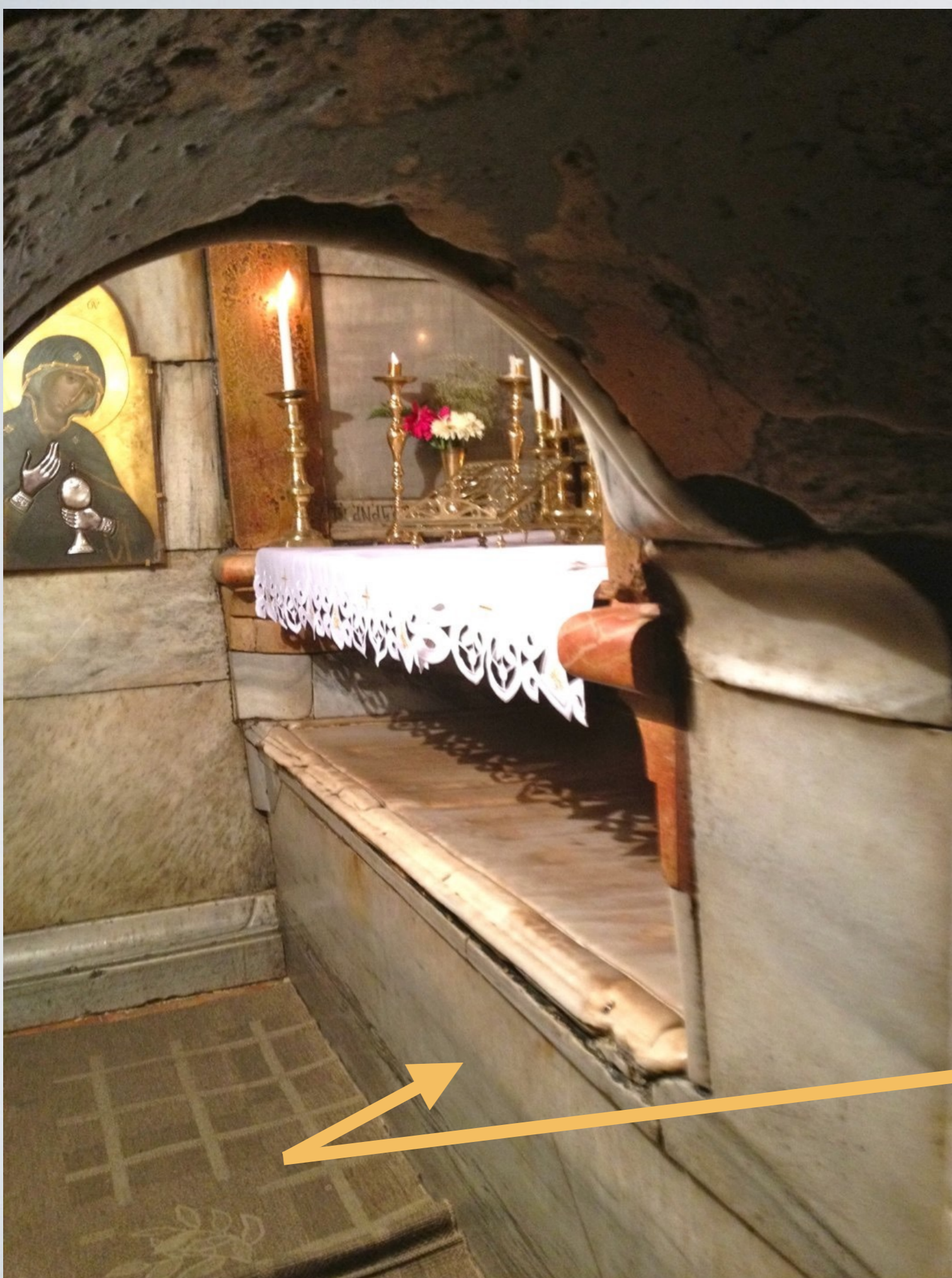
Anointing Stone



THE WAY OF THE CROSS



14



The original stone where Jesus was laid is inside the box area.

Its location confirmed as still existing when the Edicule was remodeled for structural reinforcement.

THE WAY OF THE CROSS



CRUCIFIXION

At Golgotha - the place of the skull - Calvary



CRUCIFIXION



- The Crucifixion accounts are found in:
- **Matthew 27: 33-44**
- Mark 15: 22-32
- **Luke 23: 33-43**
- **John 19: 16b-24**

CRUCIFIXION

Jesus is stripped of his clothes and nailed to the cross.

- Jesus is offered **wine with gall** - but refuses. **Mt 27:34**
- Mark adds that the gall is actually myrrh, designed to deaden the pain. **Mk 15:22**
- Jesus **garments** are divided by casting of lots.
Mt 27:34, Mk 15:24
 - **This was foreseen in Psalm 22:19. Jn 19:24***

CRUCIFIXION

- Mark 15:25. His gospel account as translated in NAB states it was 9AM, but the Greek states it was the Third Hour.
- Jewish tradition would allow for anytime between 9AM and Noon to be described as the Third Hour. If we understand it to mean Noon, then it is consistent with Mt 27:35, Mk 15:33, and Lk 23:44.
- The sign over Jesus on the cross read Jesus King of the Jews. Mt 27:37 or more specifically: Jesus the Nazarean, the King of the Jews. Jn 19:19-21*

CRUCIFIXION



- **John** adds that the clothes were divided into 4 shares for the soldiers, but not **His seamless Tunic**.
- **The seamless Tunic** - a **Khiton** - *woven in one piece from the top down* - was the **tunic worn by a High Priest** when offering a sacrifice.
- **Only the Khiton** was awarded by the casting of lots. **Jn 19:23-24**

CRUCIFIXION



- Also two **revolutionaries**, one on right and one on left (Mk 15:27, Mt 27:38, Jn 19:18).
- Luke has them as **criminals** or **robbers**. Lk 23:33.
- This fulfills Isa 53:12
“He surrendered Himself to death and was counted among the evildoers.”

CRUCIFIXION

- Our Lord was not only suffering the pain of the Crucifixion, but the **pain of being surrounded by people who were happy to make fun of Him.**
- **Passersby** (Mt 27:49) and **Scribes and Elders** (Mt 27:42) **The revolutionaries** (Mt 27:44) **Chief Priests** (Mk 15:31) and **even the Roman Soldiers** (Lk 23:36) — **all made fun of Him.**
 - **All while He was dying for their redemption.**

CRUCIFIXION

- Mt 27:40 - If you are the Son of God, come down from that cross.
- Mk 15:29 - You who would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from that cross.
- Mk 15:31 - He saved others but can't save Himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down now from that cross that we may see and believe.
- Mt 27:43 - He trusted God, let him deliver Him now if He wants.

CRUCIFIXION

- Jesus will speak 7 times from the cross, after having done so He breathes his last.
- Three miracle events are recorded at that moment:
 - The **Veil in the Sanctuary** of the Holy of Holies, is ripped in two from top to bottom.
 - An **Earthquake** occurs and rocks are split.
 - **Tombs are opened** and bodies of saints fallen asleep are raised.

CRUCIFIXION

- **First**, this **veil** separated the holy place from the **Holy of Holies** in the temple (Heb. 9:2–3).
- The fact that this occurred from top to bottom signifies that **God is the One who ripped the thick curtain**. It was not torn from the bottom by men ripping it.
- God was showing that the way of access into His presence was now available for everyone, not simply the Chief High priest. **cf Heb. 4:14–16*; 10:19–22.***

CRUCIFIXION

- Another effect, includes how it might have been perceived by the Chief High Priest and the other High Priests, Sanhedrin and other officials of the temple.
 - This other effect - seems to be portrayed in the film “The Passion of the Christ.”
- When God ripped the veil, the barrier that prevented desecration of the Holy of Holies was broken. What is Holiest was breached by crucifying the Son of God.
 - Lets watch the video.

CRUCIFIXION



CRUCIFIXION



- **Second**, at Christ's death a strong earthquake occurred, splitting rocks (**Matt. 27:51**).
- Truly the death of Christ was a powerful, earthshaking event with repercussions affecting even the creation,
 - Barbieri, L.A., Jr. (1985). Matthew. J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.) The Bible Knowledge Commentary

CRUCIFIXION

- The **third** is mentioned only by **Matthew 27: 52-53.***
 - The tombs of many holy (righteous) people (v. 52) were opened.
 - probably at a Jerusalem cemetery.
- Some believe **Matthew suggests** that **these saints were resurrected when Jesus died.**
 - A careful read indicates that the tombs of many holy people (saints) were opened.

CRUCIFIXION

Mt 27: 52-53 reflection

- The overwhelming majority of theologians say that since Christ is the first fruits of the dead, **1 Cor 15:23**, *their resurrection did not occur till Jesus was raised.*
- In view, the phrase “after Jesus’ resurrection” goes with the words **“were raised to life”** and **came out of the tombs.** *This is possible in the Greek, and is suggested in both the **KJV** and the **catholic NAB.***
- ★ **The tombs, broke open at Christ’s death, probably by the earthquake, heralding Christ’s triumph over death, but the bodies were not raised until after Christ,**

CRUCIFIXION



St Peter's Basilica

- *Having observed the demeanor of Jesus throughout His suffering, seen the Darkness fall over the Earth, the Earthquake at the moment of death — Roman Centurion Longinus declared,*
- **“Truly, this was the Son of God!”**
Mt 27:54 cf Mk 15:39.



St Longinus is remembered as the Roman soldier who pierced the side of Jesus

CRUCIFIXION

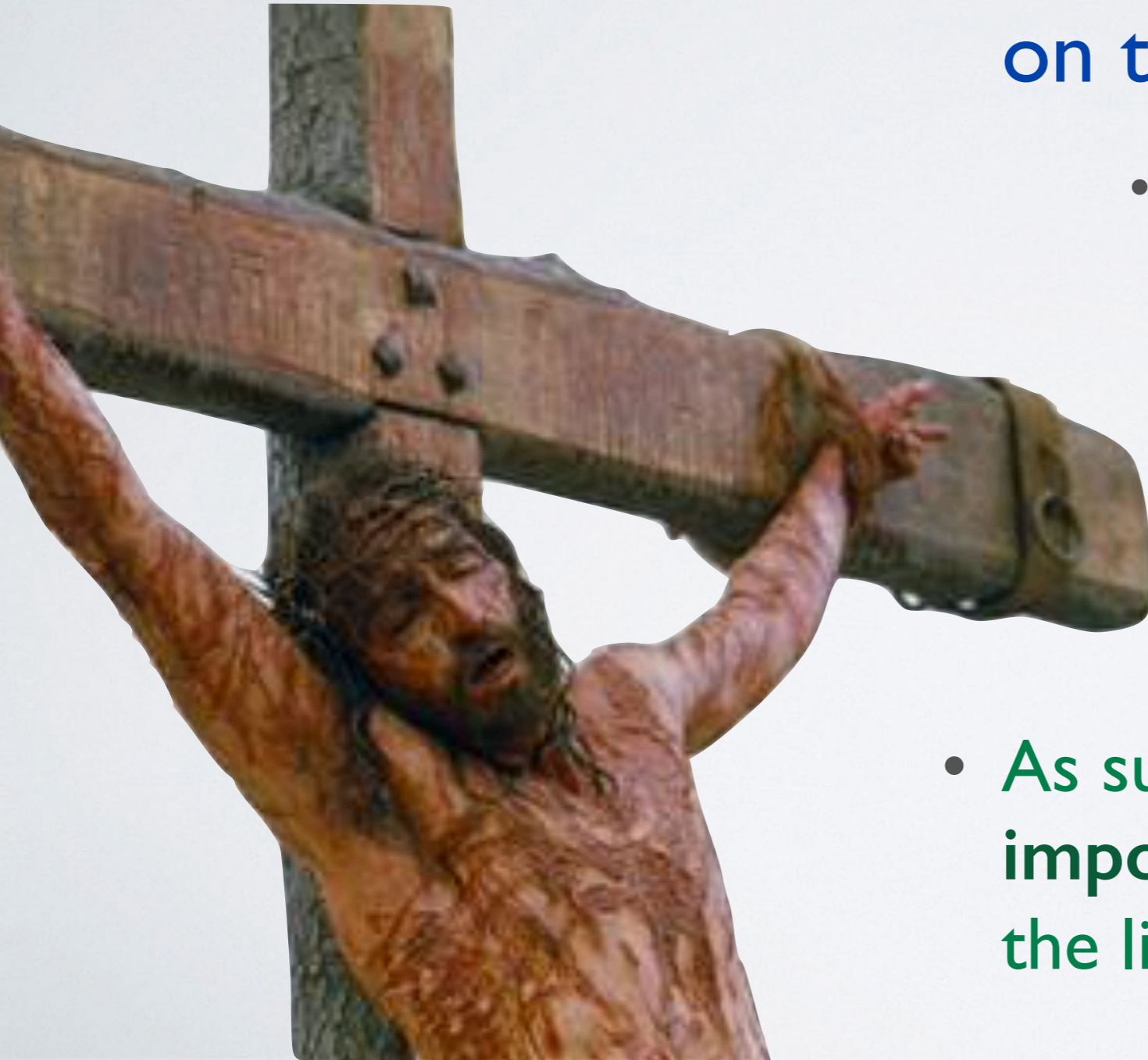


- PRESENT along with **disciple Jesus loved**, were:
 - **Mary**, the Mother of Jesus.
 - **Mary Magdalene**.
 - the Virgin Mary's sister **Mary the wife of Clopas** (*and mother of James the younger and Joses*).
 - **Salome** (the mother of the sons of Zebedee).
 - *among other acquaintances who followed from Galilee.*

CRUCIFIXION

- **Read John 19:31-37.***
- Through the testimony of an admitted eye witness the Salvific sacraments are revealed by His death:
-  The **water of Baptism** which reconciles one to the family of God, as adopted children,
-  The **Blood of the Eucharist**, without which we do not have Life (**zoe- ζωην**). John 6:53-54,
- The testimony includes that He is the **Passover Lamb**, **not a bone was broken (Ex 12:46 & PS 34:21*)** and lets read and ponder - (**Zech 12:10***).

LAST SAYINGS



- Jesus spoke **7 times** while on the cross.
 - To do so He had to exert tremendous effort - **pushing up with His nailed feet**, so that He could **take the breath necessary to speak**.
- As such, what He said was **important and necessary for the listeners, and *for us today***.

LAST SAYINGS



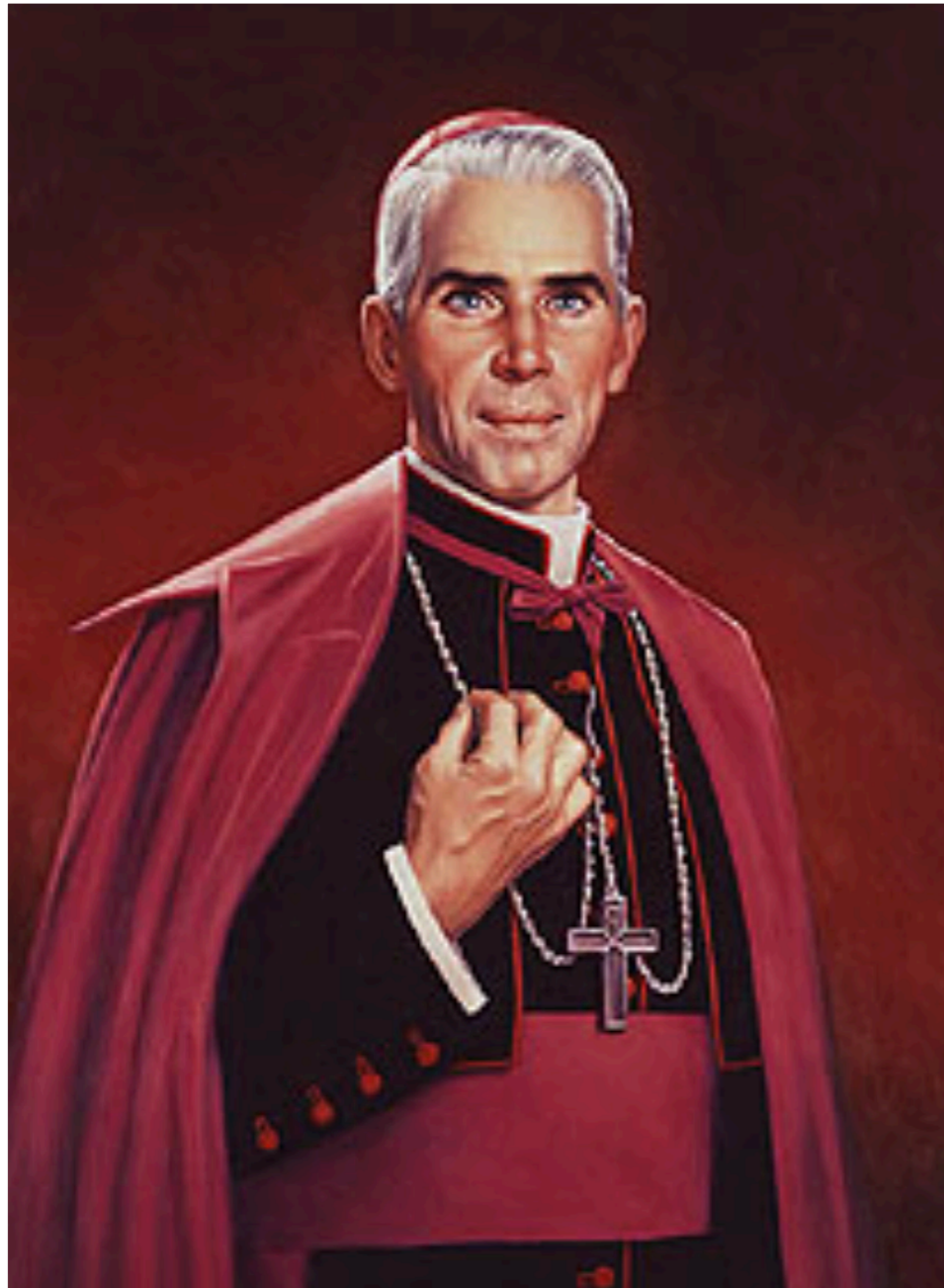
- Luke 23:34:
- “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

LAST SAYINGS

- *We immediately begin with a paradox.*
 - The very crucifixion, about which Jesus asks forgiveness for His executioners, is the actual instrument that makes their forgiveness possible.
- This petition made to His Father will be answered for it is for this reason that Jesus came into the world. (cf. Jn 12:27).



LAST SAYINGS



- As the Venerable
Fulton J. Sheen once said:

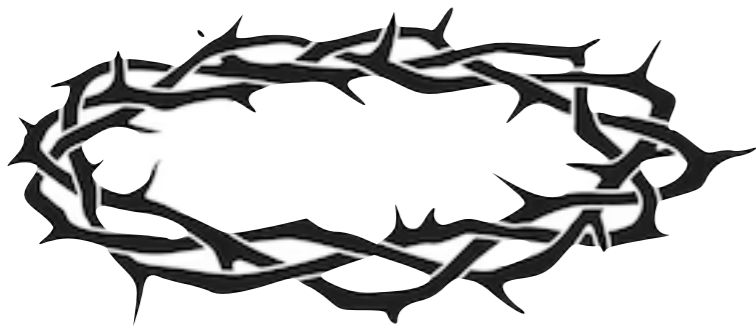
“Every other person who ever came into this world came into it to live,

Christ came into it to die...

Few of His words or actions are intelligible without reference to His Cross.”

LAST SAYINGS

- Jesus addresses the Father in a tone of supplication. He begins the same way He taught us to pray: “Our Father ...”



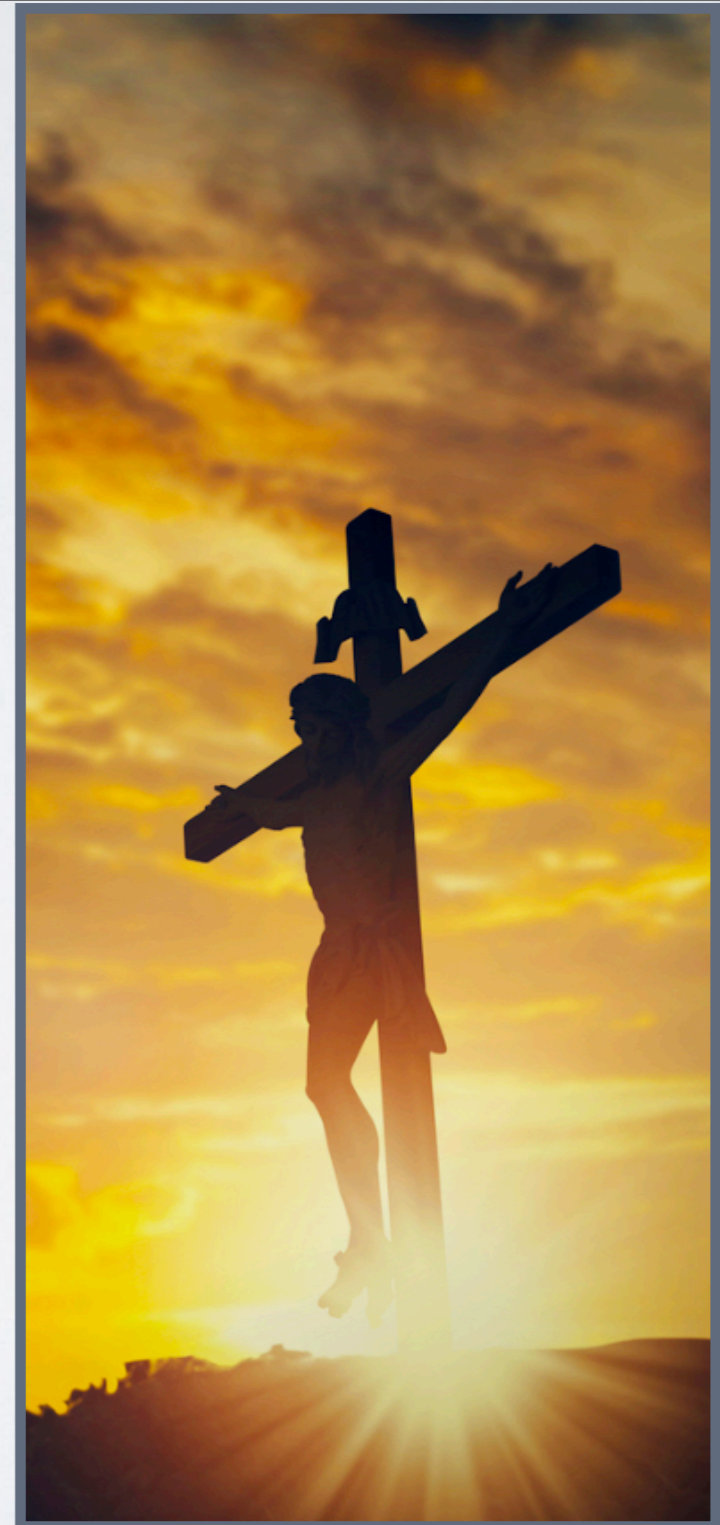
- We can distinguish two parts in His prayer:
The simple request:
“Father, forgive them,”
and the reason He offers,
“for they know not what they do.”
- These two parts require a separate reflection.

LAST SAYINGS

- As to Forgiveness:
- Jesus taught that we in fact have a **duty to forgive** offenses; **(cf. Mt 18:21-22*)**, in fact if we do not forgive, we will not be forgiven. As such He prays as He taught. **(Mt 6:12-15*)**,
- and even to **love** our enemies;
(cf. Mt 5:44-45; Rom 12:14, 20),
- because he had come into the world to offer himself as a victim **“for the forgiveness of sins” (Mt 26:28)** and thus enable us **to obtain pardon**.

LAST SAYINGS

- As to the Reason:
- It is quite clear that **the people** who called for His crucifixion, were aware that **they were condemning an innocent person to death,**
- and that they were *therefore* guilty of **homicide,**
- **But** they did not realize, in these *moments of passion,* that they were also committing **Deicide.**



LAST SAYINGS



- St Peter tells the Jews and their leaders, *encouraging them to repent*, that they acted “in ignorance.” (Acts 3:17).
- St Paul agrees and adds that if the Jews had understood the *hidden wisdom of God* “they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor 2:8). As such, Jesus in His mercy excuses them on the grounds of ignorance.

◆ Both Princes of the Apostles agree

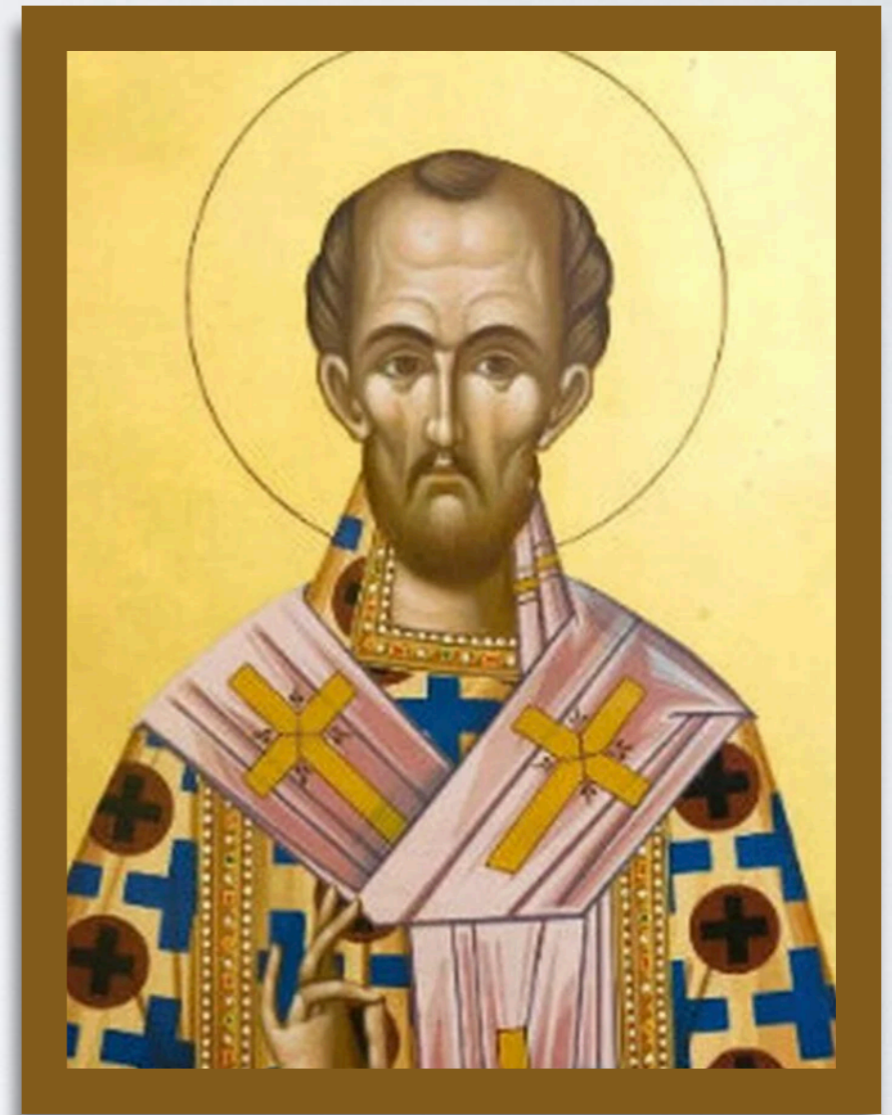
LAST SAYINGS



- “**Force yourself**, if necessary, always to forgive those who offend you, from the very first moment. **For the greatest injury or offense that you can suffer from them is as nothing compared with what God has pardoned you,**”
- **St Josemaría Escrivá. (*The Way*, 452),**
- Saint Luke’s Gospel. (2005). (p. 192). Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.

LAST SAYINGS

- Because the Lord had said, “Pray for them that persecute you,” (Matt. 5:44.) this likewise He did, when He ascended the cross, as it follows, Then said Jesus, “Father, forgive them,” *not that He was not able Himself to pardon them, Himself ...*
- ... but that He might **teach** us to **pray for our persecutors**, not only in word, but also in deed,
 - St John Chrysostom.



LAST SAYINGS

- “Christ on the cross sought pardon for his persecutors. He wished to suffer at the hands of both Jews and Gentiles so that the fruit of His petitions might reach them both,”
- “When Christ, therefore, asks forgiveness for those who are crucifying Him, He pleads for us as well. Not for just some, but for everyone.”



St Thomas Aquinas

LAST SAYINGS

- In almost any sinful action there are generally **areas of darkness, passion, blindness**, which *without taking away a person's freedom and responsibility*,
- do enable him to carry out an evil action through being attracted by apparently good aspects which that action involves,
- and this does lessen the culpability in what we do,
 - Saint Luke's Gospel. (2005). (p. 192). Dublin; New York: Four Courts Press; Scepter Publishers.



PLEASE
FILL OUT A
NAME TAG

LAST SAYINGS



- Luke 23:43:
- “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

LAST SAYINGS

- Read Luke 23:39-43.*
 - Tradition holds that **Gestas** was on the cross to the left of Jesus and **Dismas** was on the cross to the right of Jesus,
 - **Dismas** is often referred to as the good thief.
 - At the very conclusion of his life **Dismas, the good thief, stole heaven!**
 - **St Dismas** shares a Feast day with the **Feast of the Annunciation. [March 25].**



LAST SAYINGS

- In responding to the good thief, Jesus reveals that **He is God, for He has power over man's eternal destiny;** and He also shows that **He is infinitely merciful and does not reject the soul who sincerely repents.**

Similarly by these words Jesus reveals to us a basic truth of faith:

“We believe in eternal life,”

- **Pope Saint Paul VI - *(Creed of the People of God, 28).***



LAST SAYINGS

- On the cross, **nails** had fastened the good thief's **hands and feet**, and nothing remained free from torture, but his **heart** ♥ **and tongue**,



- By the inspiration of God, the thief offered to Him the whole which he found free, that as it is written: **With the Heart he might Believe unto righteousness, with the Mouth he might Confess unto salvation.**

(Paraphrasing generally Rom 10:9),

- **Pope Saint Gregory the Great - (Mor 18 c. 40).**

LAST SAYINGS

- Suddenly filled with Grace, **Dismas** possessed the theological virtues of **Faith**, **Hope** and **Charity**:
- He had **Faith**, who believed that **Jesus would reign in Paradise** even as he saw Him dying equally with himself;
- He had **Hope trusting an entrance into His kingdom**;
- He persevered in **Charity** also *zealously* in his death, who for his wickedness **reproved his brother and fellow-thief**, dying **without repentance** for a like crime to his own.

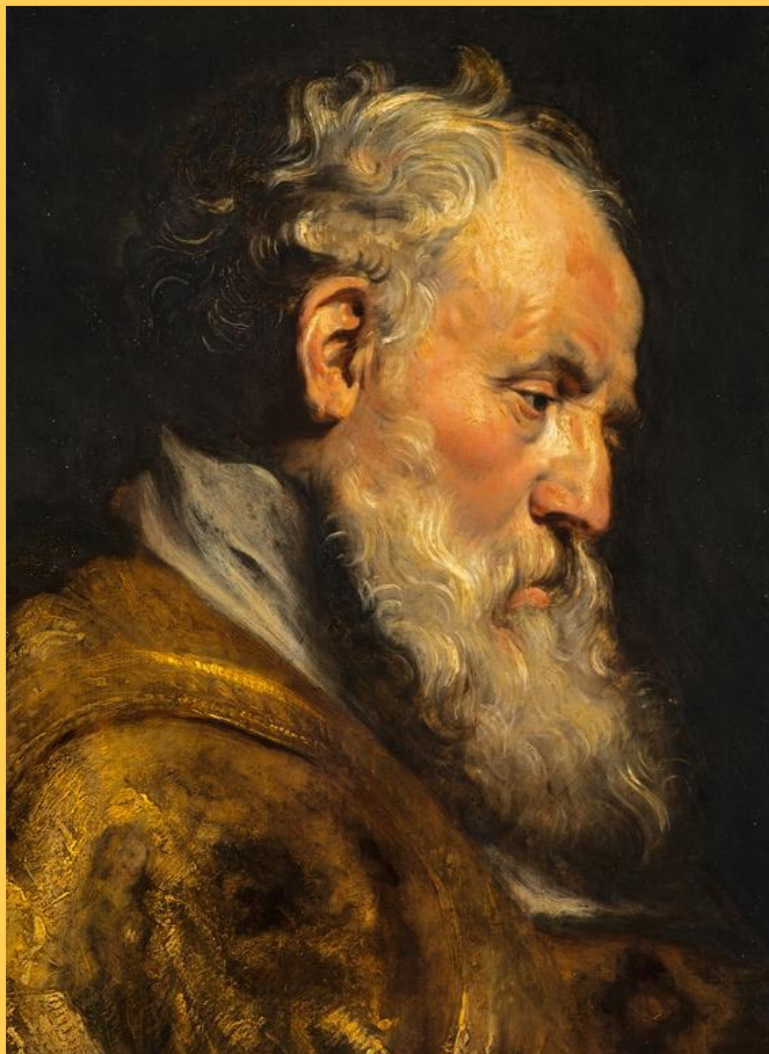
Pope Saint Gregory the Great - *(Mor 18 c. 40)*.

LAST SAYINGS



- Still, **we are nonetheless surprised** at the **quick conversion**. Or was it as quick as we think? **Is there a clue in the Gospel?**
- There **is** a clue that **God's grace had prepared Dismas** for this moment. **"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom,"**
- **Dismas knew of Jesus - he probably had heard Jesus**
How do we know?
- ✱ Dismas knew **Jesus had a Kingdom** and that **Jesus would be going there after His death**, and this he did **not** learn while on the cross. Dismas **wanted** to be with Jesus after he died.

LAST SAYINGS



Saint Ambrose
Bishop of Milan

- A most *remarkable example* is here given of mercy after conversion, **seeing that pardon is so speedily granted** to the thief,
- The Lord **quickly pardons**, because the thief is **quickly converted**.
- And **His grace** is more abundant than **our prayer**; in that the Lord ever **gives** more than we **ask**.

LAST SAYINGS



- And as **every king** who returns victorious carries in triumph the **best** of his spoils,
- so **the Lord** having **despoiled the devil** of a portion of his plunder, carries the **good thief** with Him into **Paradise**,
- **Saint Theophylact**,
Archbishop of Ohrid,
Bulgaria A.D. 1078

LAST SAYINGS

- For the sake of completion, we note that **Mark and Matthew**, in their Gospels record that the **both thieves abused Christ**, (cf. **Mk 15:32, Mt 27:44***).
- while **Luke testifies** to **one** thief denouncing to the end, and the **other ultimately** converting and embracing Christ.
- Simply **imagine being** *three hours dying **next** to Jesus, watching* His *patient endurance* of the cross while **tortured** by the ***harassment*** of witnesses - **how a good thief** - in a similar manner as a **Roman Centurion Longinus** who was also there - that **both** could come to **faith**. In the case of St Dismas, we need **not** **imagine** for **St Luke** tells us, he **actually** did!

LAST SAYINGS



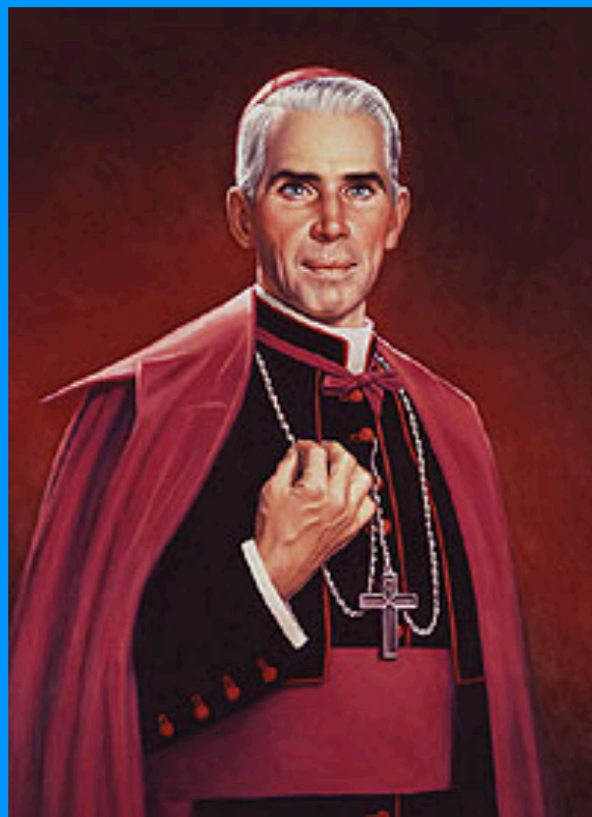
- John 19:26-27:
- “Woman, behold your son.”
“Behold your mother.”

LAST SAYINGS

- Read John 29:25-28.*

A modified reflection relying on the wisdom and writings of the Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen,

- On **Good Friday** ... Nazareth passed into Calvary, and the **nails** of a **Carpenter's shop** became the **nails** of a **human evil**.
- From the Cross ... **Jesus completes His last Will and Testament.**



LAST SAYINGS

- He had already committed and given,
 - His **blood to the Church**,
 - His **garments to His enemies**,
 - **a thief to Paradise**,
 - and would soon *commend* **His body to the grave**,
and **His soul to His Heavenly Father**.
- To whom, then, would He give His last remaining **two treasures, whom He loved above all others ...**
 - ... His **mother** and the Disciple that Jesus loved **the Apostle John**.

LAST SAYINGS

- He would bequeath them to one another, giving at once a son to His Mother and a Mother to His friend.
- “Woman!” “Behold thy son!” It was her *second delivery!*
- Mary had brought forth her First-born without labor in the cave of Bethlehem; she now brings forth her second-born, John, in the birth pangs of the Cross.
- At this moment Mary is undergoing the pains of childbirth, *not only for her second born, John*, but also for the millions who will be born to her in Christian ages as “Children of Mary.”

LAST SAYINGS

- Now we can understand why **her only begotten son Jesus, the Christ** was properly called "**her First-born.**"
- It was **not because she was to have other children by the blood of flesh**, but because **she was to have other children by the blood of her heart.** ❤️
- Truly, indeed, the Divine condemnation against the old Eve is now set aside in favor of the **new Eve, Mary, who will be the Mother of Jesus' bride the Church** - who births all of the adopted children of God the Father, and siblings of her Son in the order of grace. **(cf.: Rev 12:17*)**.

LAST SAYING

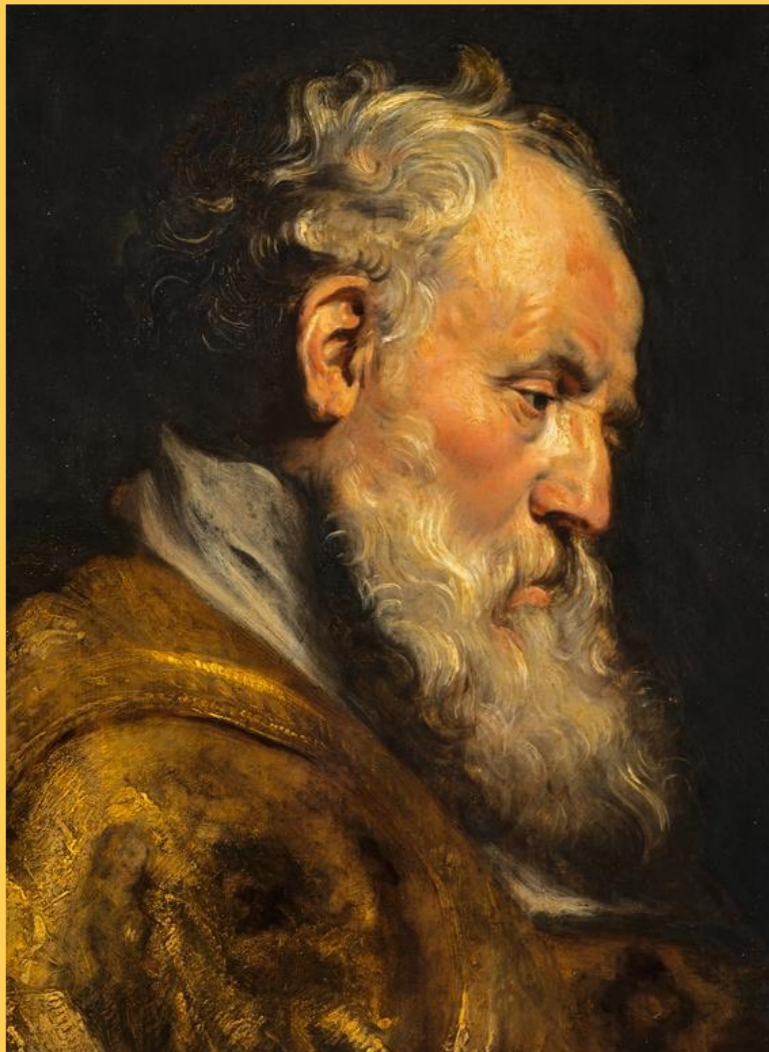
- **Mary**, this New Eve, is **not unlike Rachel**, the wife of Jacob who bore her second born child in sorrow and pain, dying in childbirth.
- **Mary** experiences the **birth pangs** of begetting **John** at the foot of the cross,
 - *It is then that **Simeon's prophecy** made during the Presentation, is fulfilled as a **sword pierces Mary's soul.** (cf.: Lk 2:35).*
- **Modern Jews, today, still honor Rachel** as a **great intercessor before God**, for the **children of Israel.**

LAST SAYINGS

- **St Augustine** sees it as a lesson Jesus gives us on how to keep the **Fourth Commandment**:
- “Here is a lesson in morals. He is doing what He tells us to do and, **like a good Teacher, He instructs his own by example, that it is the duty of good children to take care of their parents;**
 - As though the **wood** on which his dying members were fixed, were also the **chair** of the **teaching Master.**”

(**St Augustine, In Ioann. Evang., 119, 2).**

LAST SAYINGS



Saint Ambrose
Bishop of Milan

- He [Jesus] thought it a **greater thing** to show Himself victorious over punishment, **fulfilling the offices of piety to His mother**, than ***giving the kingdom of heaven and eternal life to the thief.***
- For if it was **religious to give life to the thief**, **a much richer work of piety it is for a son to honor his mother with such affection.**

