



## Finding Jesus at San Damiano

March 2024 | 0005

### Resurrection and the Virtuous Life

In our Risen Lord we behold the perfect and ultimate fulfillment of the old adage, *"The Greatest Glory of God is Man Fully Alive."*

As women and men in God's Image and Likeness, we are *all* called to participate in this "magnification" of God's Glory in creation (see Luke 1:46). Jesus told us that we must be "...perfected as our Heavenly Father is Perfect (Matthew 5:48). God's Grace, inspiring and building on human nature and our good moral choices, helps us to grow in Virtue and become men and women, "after Christ's Own Heart."

Young Adults (ages 20–35) may want to consider gathering at the Arlington Diocese's San Damiano Retreat Center the weekend of **May 10-12** to be with Christ, each other, and Father Stephen Oetjen as he leads a retreat, **"Finding Christ in the Virtuous Life."** Fr. Oetjen will use the wisdom of St. Thomas Aquinas to help retreatants understand that a well-ordered Life in Christ is the surest way to experience peace, joy, and happiness on this side of Heaven.

Please prayerfully consider joining us for this great opportunity... and pass on the good word to any young adults you know who may be interested.



### Resurrection in the Gospels

by Father John Riley

Spiritual Director

San Damiano Retreat Center

When the Son Rose on Easter Sunday only one or two persons on the face of the earth still had Faith. Read about one of them at: **FJ4G** All the rest of the men and women who had known and loved and followed Jesus Christ were faithless... and hopeless.

When the sun rose on Easter Sunday, two Marys, Joanna, Suzannah, and Salome were on their way to the tomb. They were not going there to see if Jesus had Risen as He said; they had completely forgotten His repeated prophecies that He would rise on the third day. Their hope was merely to wash and anoint His dead Body, and then to lovingly lay those pierced and torn earthly remains to rest in death until the end of the world.

They were in for a surprise.

Frequently Catholics are not very well informed about the events of that glorious day. Most never take the time to sit down quietly and contemplatively read through the four accounts; **Matthew's Gospel chapter 28** (*can be read in about 3 minutes*); **Mark chapter 16** (*again—about 3 minutes to read*); **Luke 24** (*closer to 10 minutes*); and two chapters in **John—20 and 21** (*perhaps 15 minutes*). In about half an hour one can easily read and savor these accounts of Jesus' Resurrection and the events of that "most unusual day."

Please consider taking some time in the days ahead to read these magnificent passages in the Scriptures. Would you like to spend more time savoring and praying your way through **"the Resurrection Narratives"** in a quiet and contemplative setting? Retreat to San Damiano the weekend

### UPCOMING RETREATS



#### The Resurrection Narratives – April 12-14

**A Silent Retreat for Men & Women.** Join Fr. Riley for this unique

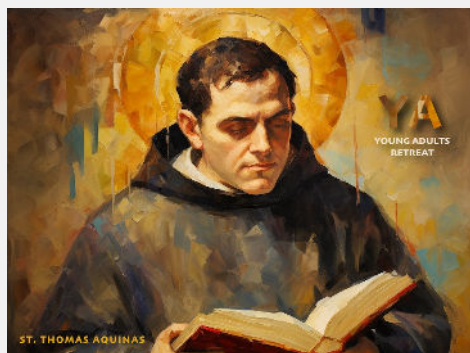
retreat. Together, we will treasure and ponder the great events of Resurrection day and the weeks that follow as they are described in the four Gospels – comparing, contrasting, and harmonizing apparent "contradictions" between the accounts.

Read More

of **April 12-14**. In this retreat – *Following Jesus through the Resurrection* – we will treasure and ponder the great events of Easter Sunday and the weeks that followed as they are described in the four Gospels – comparing, contrasting, and harmonizing apparent "contradictions" between the accounts – and breathing deeply of the Holy Spirit Who is the "breath" of our Risen Lord.

Only a deep and abiding understanding of the power and significance of the Resurrection will help us to embrace the Joy that is the Great Gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior, our Lord, and our God.

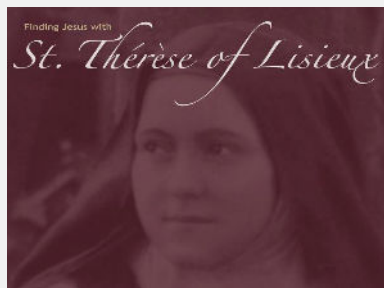
## Young Adult Retreat May 10-12



**Finding Jesus in the Virtuous Life:** God's law orders us towards goodness-towards union with God Himself. His grace transforms us from within, ordering every aspect of our lives towards union with Him, and this is the essence of the virtuous life. This young adult retreat will be an opportunity to spend a weekend contemplating the "well-ordered life in Christ."

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## Upcoming Retreat



### *Women's Silent Retreat*

**MAY 3-5, 2024.** St. Therese of Lisieux's spiritual doctrine is easily understood and can be applied in our day-to-day lives. Join Fr. Jack Riley at the feet of Jesus at San Damiano to learn more about this great Saint.

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