

Stations of Easter Meditations Podcast Series Transcript

Sixth Station of Easter (with Gabby Bibeau and Bro. Tom Redmond, SM)

00:08 - Gabby Bibeau

A long and rich tradition of Lent has been making the *Stations of the Cross* with Jesus. Station by station, step by step, we journey deeper into the Paschal mystery of the suffering and death of Jesus. Now as we enter this graced season of Easter, NACMS is offering a weekly reflection on the stations of Easter, supporting our growing relationship with the Risen Jesus.

00:43 - Gabby Bibeau

The Sixth Station of Easter: Belonging to the Risen Jesus as the Branches Belong to the Vine. We adore you, Jesus Christ, the Risen one, for by your holy obedience through the Paschal mystery, you have redeemed the world.

01:21 - Bro. Tom Redmond, SM

At this sixth station of Easter, we focus on a passage from Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John. “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he takes away. And every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes that it may bear more fruit. You are pruned because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine. You are the branches. As you abide in me and I in you, you shall bear much fruit. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be full.”

02:55 - Gabby Bibeau

This Gospel passage holds such a wonderful image from nature. Our relationship with the Risen Jesus is as close and as intimate as branches are with the vine. What flows through the vine flows into the branches, and they, in turn, bear fruit. This sense of the flow of grace is seen in the holy plan of God. The incarnation flows from the fullness and beauty of creation. “Let there be light” was spoken again, and the incarnation flows into the Pascal Mystery: the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And the Paschal mystery flows into the reality of our own lives in the mystery of suffering, pain, death, and resurrection.

03:58 - Gabby Bibeau

Our stations of Easter invite us to pause each week to look deeper into the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus. In each of the appearances of the Risen Jesus, there is the slow process of recognizing Jesus as the Risen Christ. There is a personal transformation in the meeting of the

Risen Jesus. Our Christian faith exists through our encounter of the Risen one, supported by the believing community.

04:35 - Gabby Bibeau

Let us conclude our time at the sixth station of Easter with these words of Pope Francis in *Laudato Si'*. “As Christians, we are called to accept the world as a sacrament of communion, as a way of sharing with God and our neighbors on a global scale. It is our humble conviction that the divine and the human meet in the slightest detail, in the seamless garment of God's creation, and the last speck of dust of our planet. St. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology and take us to the heart of what it is to be human.

05:35 – Gabby Bibeau

Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever St. Francis would gaze at the sun, the moon, or the smallest of animals, he would burst into song, drawing all other creatures into this praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them to praise the Lord just as if they were endowed with reason. His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus. For to him, each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists.

6:30 - Gabby Bibeau

Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously.”

07:31 - Gabby Bibeau

Thanks for listening to our meditation on the stations of Easter. Check-in each Saturday in Easter for a new station. For more resources about the Marianist charism and spirituality, check out our website at www.nacms.org. Thank you for listening.

Regina cæli lætare, alleluia / Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia / Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia / Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.