

May 2, 2020-Saturday, Third Week of Easter

St. Catherine Laboure

Zoe Laboure (better known by her religious name, “Catherine”) was born on this day in 1806 in the Burgundy region of France.

When she was nine, her mother died. Kneeling before a picture of the Blessed Mother, the grief-stricken little girl prayed, “Now, dear Blessed Mother, now you will be my mother.”

At 24, Catherine decided to join the Daughters of Charity and work with the sick. As a young novice in Paris, she began to experience visions of the Blessed Mother. In one of these, Mary asked her to have a medal made—showing Mary’s picture and the words, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.”

Catherine kept this vision to herself, telling only her spiritual director. It was through him that devotion to what became known as the “Miraculous Medal” quickly spread.

Through all this, Catherine stayed in the background. Only when she was near death in 1876, did Catherine reveal her 45-year secret and confide to her superior the role she had in bringing into existence the Miraculous Medal.

Like St. Catherine Laboure, St. Teresa of Avila also made the same choice of Mary for her mother. She did this while praying before a statue of Mary shortly after her own mother’s death.

Then the two disciples said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?” So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem, where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, “The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!” Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:32-35)

Have I ever noticed how many of the seven resurrection appearances of Jesus involved food?

Four of the them.

Jesus ate with the disciples the night before he died, and he continues to do the same thing after he rose from the dead. That’s because he wanted to teach the disciples that he continues to be present with them.

A certain kind of connection happens when people share a meal together. The risen Christ came to his disciples not just so they could see that he was alive. He came to engage the disciples, to connect with them in a personal way and he did this by sharing meals with them.

The risen Christ comes among us today in order to *engage* us, to *connect* with us, and to draw us into his living and dying and passing through death to life. He still does this by sharing a meal with us in the Eucharist.

When I go to the Eucharist, am I ready for this kind of connection with him?

Spend some quiet time with the Lord