

## LIVING FRATERNITY

### Theme: A reflection on Easter Monday ... Regina Caeli

In this month of April 2026, we offer Pope Leo XIV's homily on this Easter Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. You will find its content interesting as it presents a new approach to Easter Monday.

*Good reflection and Sharing*

**Reminder:** May our fraternal encounter be a moment of *privileged encounter with Jesus* who walks among us.

## APRIL 2026 MONTHLY MEETING

### Opening of the meeting

After the song proposed or chosen by the members of the fraternity, a prayer according to the Ritual or any other, the meeting begins.

### Introduction

***Dear brothers and sisters, Christ is risen! Happy Easter!***

This greeting, filled with wonder and joy, will accompany us throughout this week. As we celebrate the new day the Lord has made for us, the liturgy proclaims the entry of all creation into the time of salvation: in the name of Jesus, the despair of death is swept away forever.

### Continue reading

Today's Gospel (*Mt* 28:8-15) calls us to choose between two accounts: that of the women who encountered the risen Lord (vv. 9-11), and that of the guards who were bribed by the leaders of the Sanhedrin (vv. 11-14).

The former proclaim Christ's victory over death; the latter assert that death prevails always and in every circumstance. According to their version, Jesus has not risen; instead, his body was stolen. From the same fact - the empty tomb - two interpretations arise: one a source of new and eternal life, the other of certain and definitive death.

## **Reflection and Sharing**

What do you retain from the preceding paragraph? Share your thoughts.

## **Continue reading.**

This contrast invites us to reflect on the value of Christian witness and the integrity of human communication. Often, the proclamation of truth is obscured by what we today call "fake news" - lies, insinuations, and unfounded accusations. Yet, in the face of such obstacles, the truth does not remain hidden; rather, it comes forth to meet us, living and radiant, illuminating even the deepest darkness.

Just as he spoke to the women at the tomb, Jesus says to us today: "Do not be afraid; go and tell" (v. 10). In this way, he himself becomes the Good News to be witnessed in the world. The Passover of the Lord is our Passover - the Passover of all humanity - for this man who died for us is the Son of God who gave his life for us. Just as the risen One, ever living and present, frees the past from a destructive end, so the Easter proclamation redeems our future from the tomb.

## **Reflection and Sharing**

Does the text from the preceding paragraphs remind you of a particular event? Let's take time to have a good sharing.

## **Continue reading**

Dear friends, how important it is that this Gospel reach, above all, those oppressed by the evil that corrupts history and confuses consciences! I think of peoples afflicted by war, of Christians persecuted for their faith, of children deprived of an education. To proclaim the Paschal mystery of Christ in both word and deed means to give a new voice to hope - a hope otherwise stifled by the hands of the violent. Wherever it is proclaimed, the Good News sheds light upon every shadow, at every age.

With particular affection, in the light of the risen Lord, we remember today **Pope Francis**, who, on Easter Monday of last year, returned to the Lord. As we recall

his profound witness of faith and love, let us pray together to the Virgin Mary, Seat of Wisdom, that we may become ever more radiant heralds of the truth.

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### **After the *Regina Caeli*:**

Pope Leo XIV shares a special message.

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

I extend a warm welcome to all of you, dear pilgrims from Italy and various other countries I greet the young people from the Deanery of *Appiano Gentile*. My thoughts go out to all those in different parts of the world who are taking part in the initiatives organized for the "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace", renewing my appeal that sport, with its universal language of fraternity, may be a place of inclusion and peace.

I thank all those who have sent me messages of good wishes for Easter during these days I am especially grateful for your prayers. Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, may God reward each of you with his gifts!

I hope you spend this Easter Monday and these days of the Easter Octave - during which we continue to celebrate Christ's Resurrection - in joy and faith. Let us continue to pray for the gift of peace for the whole world.

Happy Easter Monday

### **Deepening the Rule and the General Constitutions**

In preparing this document, we found that Article 9 of the Rule and Article 16.1 of the General Constitutions are links with this text.

#### **Rule – Article 9**

The Virgin Mary, humble servant of the Lord, was open to his every word and call. She was embraced by Francis with indescribable love and declared the protectress and advocate of his family. The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

## **General Constitutions – Article 16.1**

Mary, Mother of Jesus, is the model of listening to the Word and of faithfulness to vocation; we, like Francis, see all the gospel virtues realised in her.

The brothers and sisters should cultivate intense love for the Most Holy Virgin, imitation, prayer, and childlike surrender. They should manifest their own devotion with expressions of genuine faith, in forms accepted by the Church.

## **Biblical reflection and sharing**

Read the text of Saint John, the text of the Passion, of Easter Sunday or the day after your meeting

Share our thoughts on this gospel with the following suggestions:

- Take a moment to reflect; underline inspiring words or expressions...
- Share your thoughts on the chosen Gospel text...

## **Life-Objective**

In this time of Easter, let us be bearers of the Good News of the Resurrected of the Christ in our families and friends. ...

## **Events and Information from the Church and the Ordre**

Remember our meetings and local activities.

Pray for the success of our Regional and Local Fraternity meetings .

## **End of the fraternal meeting**

(a prayer or a song chosen by the fraternity)

Suggestion: Sing the Regina Caeli

## **At home**

We suggest a reading of texts from Easter and also from the Paschal Time of the Octave.