

IN THE CENACLE WITH MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Three years have gone by since Jesus began his public ministry throughout the northern region of Galilee and Judea. The men who had followed him from Galilee had lived with him, and had shared good and hard times.

Now, since their Master's passion and crucifixion, these eleven men, the closest disciples of Jesus, have been spending time together in the "upper room", that same "cenacle" where the last supper with Jesus had taken place.

Reports from some women who had also been following Jesus, were circulating that Jesus had actually risen back to life, and some had insisted of having seen him! The eleven apostles had also been the recipient of ongoing apparitions of the risen Jesus, who had given them the mandate to go all over the nations and to teach what he had taught, and to cure the sick as he had done.

Yet, they still had doubts and were afraid to venture out and follow Jesus' instructions. They were afraid to end up arrested and crucified like their Master. They felt safer if they stuck together in the cenacle behind locked doors. They lacked the courage, they lacked motivation, and they lacked zeal...

During this time of pandemic, we too, like the disciples, experience fear, uncertainty, doubts. What can we do to overcome this difficult time? We can follow the disciples' example: in our own domestic cenacle, we can gather around Mother Mary. As she did with the disciples, she encourages us to trust, to not give up, to pray her Rosary with the heart.

*Mary, Help of Christians, reminds us the last words Jesus told his disciples before ascending back to Heaven: **"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised...; in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, all over the world. (Acts 1).***

Let us ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit, to fill us with the Love that casts out all fear, with the Faith that removes all doubts. **MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, PRAY FOR US.**