

Thursday, July 1, 2021

Thursday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*Saint Junípero Serra, Priest*

The ultimate act of faith. Abraham offers his son Isaac to God, the God who promised him this son; the son from whom descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore would fill the earth. Abraham could have rebelled, he could have cursed this God for going back on His word, for not following through on His promise. It must have been an intense, pensive moment as Abraham would recall all that this new God had done for him, unlike any of the many gods whom he had sought throughout his lifetime. He also realized from his own mistakes (having a child with Hagar, lying about Sarah while in Egypt) that this new God continued to reach out to him, even after his blunders. “Abraham, our father of faith” (Eucharistic Prayer I) proves those words because he did not rebel. “By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, . . . **He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead**, and he received Isaac back as a symbol” (Hebrews 11:17-19). A symbol of Christ’s resurrection!

The Gospel shows another sign of resurrection. Sin and sickness or disabilities are related (“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” – John 9:2). The Son of Man goes to the inner core of the problem – sin! Forgiveness is Jesus’ primary mission! The paralytic is also cured – “Rise!” It is always about resurrection and eternal life!

Saint Junípero Serra, pray for us!

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasovich*

