

THE STRENGTH TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTIES

Surely we can learn much from the MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN whom our Church honors this day. These were the women who watched under the cross as Jesus died. They saw how Joseph & Nicodemus buried Christ. On Saturday, they remained at home, for it was the big feast of the Passover & they were not allowed to go out.

Sunday, the first Resurrection morn, while it was still dark, they went through the streets of Jerusalem and made their way to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body. Certainly they had their own families & homes. Surely there was work to be done. But Jesus had a first claim on their hearts. They carried spices & ointments used to anoint the body. One wonders how they were able to obtain such materials, for it was the Passover time. But love always finds a way to express itself.

One thing, however, concerned them. Who was going to roll away the huge stone from the door to the tomb? In spite of this, they kept going. That's the amazing thing. Love overcomes obstacles.

Upon entering the sepulcher, the women saw an angel sitting on the stone. They were fearful. He spoke to them saying "Be not afraid; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified; HE IS RISEN, HE IS NOT HERE."

May our love of Christ prod us to seek Him out. May we be rewarded with joy, as the Myrrh-Bearing Women were, upon learning of Christ's Resurrection. May we continue to believe in spite of obstacles. These women provide a lesson in faith sorely needed for our times. Their belief & love were genuine, overcoming difficulties to express their devotion. We see in their act that close tie between faith & works.