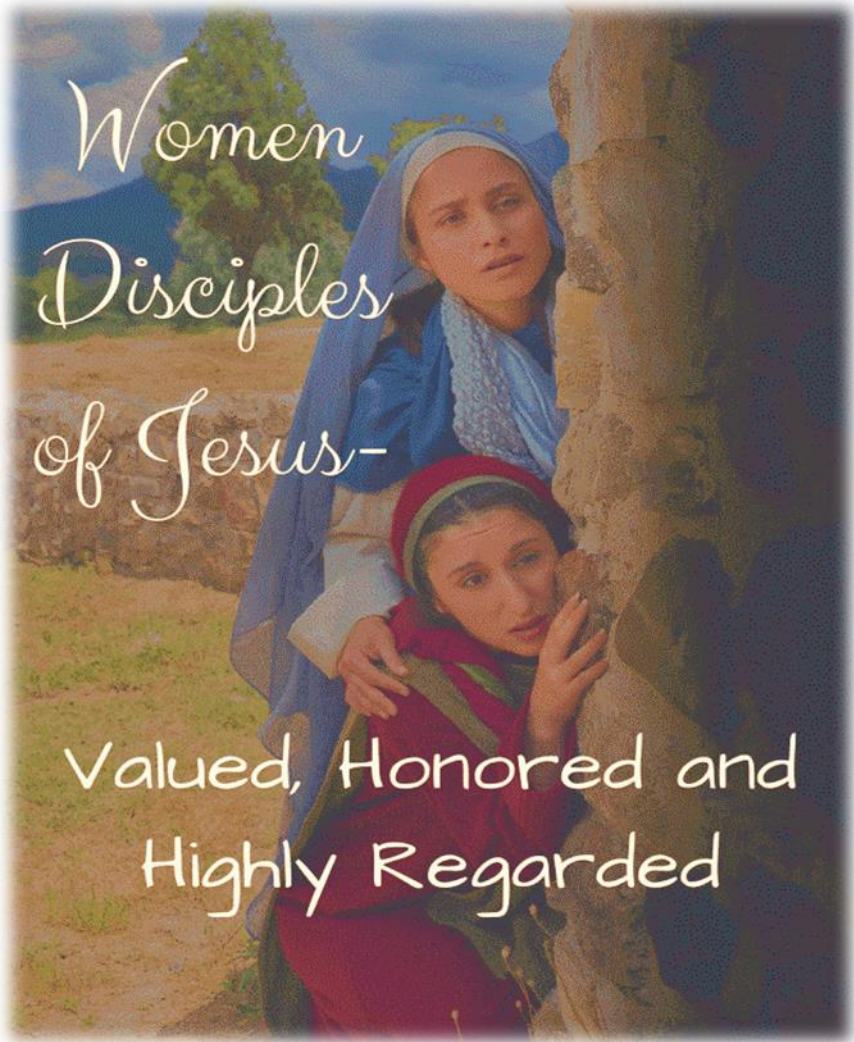


*Christ is Risen,
Alleluia!*



Women
Disciples
of Jesus-

Valued, Honored and
Highly Regarded

Dear Sister

Do you remember a game played by all of us called **Hide and Seek**?

The game of Hide and Seek has a long history, with most historians comparing our modern 'Hide and Seek' with the game '*Apodidraskinda*', which was described by 2nd Century Greek writer *Julius Pollux*.¹ The game is played throughout the world with different versions being popular in different countries.

We try to recall it: what are its noticeable characteristics?

- ✓ A seeker and hiders
- ✓ Hiders trying to hide while keeping their eyes and ears on the seeker
- ✓ Not wishing to be caught yet to find the seeker
- ✓ the seeker's spot to touch
- ✓ The seeker in search of the hiders until they find the last one

We turn to Nature's 'Hide and Seek'



"Every being living or non-living can help us to discover God. The contemplation of creation creates in us a sense of Divine in everything, reflecting the glory of God."²

A tree in winter has much potential but hidden to bring out its fullness enduring all the hardship of the seasons.



At the fullness of its transformation, the hidden potential of the tree is revealed for its usefulness.

Does this hiding give me some sense of my commitment to seek my GOD? Does my hiding bring out fruits of contemplation, transformation, healing?

¹ (The Editors of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*);

² (*Laudato Si*)

As *St. Bonaventure* says, “Contemplation of creation increases the grace in us and helps us discover ourselves and God in everything.”

“When I bathe my inner world in the transforming presence of God, I am a builder of a new world. I am an active participant in the restoring and healing of all things.”³

Hiding is a most human re-action. What makes us to hide? Is it fear, self-defence, pride, shame or something else? The Bible starts with the hiding of Adam (*Gen 3,7ff*;) and Cain (*4,8ff*) in the first stories in the *Book of Genesis*

GOD set out HIMSELF as their true seeker

Seeking and to be searched is our inner urge and experience. We carry a compass of seeking in all our hiding.

Hiding yet Seeking

Our hiding always bears the longing to be sought after. It is an inner desire to belong. As much as we hide, as much do we seek to be searched after. *Are we aware of it?*

The Passion Narratives of JESUS show how His friends re-acted on the arrest in the Garden. First Peter hit back, later he followed his Rabbi to the Courtyard, but when he was discovered as the Nazarene’s friend, he ran for his life. All the others had disappeared already.

They dashed for hiding. JESUS had to go alone, up to Calvary on to the Cross and die lonely except John, Mary His Mother and the few crying women beside the Cross.



Yet, GOD was seeking them all in their hidings. The urge to belong and to share their darkest life experience brought them together again. Still behind locked doors and closed windows. Here began their Easter Life: CHRIST searched for them in Community. HE appeared to gift them with HIS SPIRIT, HIS LIFE, and HIS LOVE. He sought after them.

³ (*Richard Rohr in his meditations*)

We, like Jesus' first disciples, are in a time of fear and uncertainty. This Easter, we, and many of our loved ones, are locked up in our homes in fear and uncertainty because of the *COVID 19 virus*. It is for this reason that it is imperative that we hear His Easter Message with fresh ears and an open heart. This message is simple, but life giving. Today, JESUS says to each of us, to you and me, as He did to His disciples locked in fear and uncertainty in their homes: "Peace: I am with you. Do not be afraid." (*Lk: 24:36-38*) This is the Easter Message.

Every Resurrection Story affirms an ambiguous yet certain presence in very ordinary settings, like walking on the road to Emmaus with a stranger, roasting fish on the beach, or what appeared like a gardener to Mary Magdalene. These moments set a stage of expectation and desire that GOD's presence can be seen in the ordinary and the material, and we do not have to wait for supernatural apparitions.



**GOD THE GREAT SEEKER is searching for
you and me**

Look around you, sister, to find it:
*People who were sought
after by the Seeker GOD in all ages...
Men and women of the present
who try to find the Seeker GOD*

If fear, self-defence, pride, shame or something else made them hide in many occasions; courage, self-confidence, determination or everything else can lead them to proclaim the transformation happened through the meeting with the Risen Christ in the ordinariness of their lives.

I invite you, to deeply enter into the experience of meeting the Risen Christ in our ordinariness, in our communities, in our missions and seek to be found by HIM and share the new life HE offers.

We wish you a very Happy and Blessed Easter

Sr. Rose Paul Puthusserril

On behalf of the Congregational Leadership Team, Luzern, 2021