

## **REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR MASS Fifth Wednesday of Lent**

### First Reading

Dan 3:14-20, 24-25, 28

The three young men are rescued from the fiery furnace.

The book of Daniel reflects the time of its composition centuries later than the events it narrates. By the time the book was written, fresh persecution was being waged against the chosen People of God.

Daniel is a book of theology about God's fidelity and the courage of believers.

V 28 The king exclaimed, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: he has sent his angel to rescue the servants who, putting their trust in him, defied the order of the king, and preferred to forfeit their bodies rather than serve or worship any god but their own.'

### Gospel Reading

John 8:31-42

v. 31 To the Jews who believed in him, Jesus said: 'If you make my word your home you will indeed by my disciples, you will learn the truth and the truth will make you free.

v. 37 I know that you are descended from Abraham; but in spite of that you want to kill me because nothing I say has penetrated into you.

Jesus unmasks the weak faith of some Jews who believed in him and challenges them to live in the truth that he teaches.

### Reflection

267 words

During an outbreak of plague in past centuries, the dedicated religious nuns and brothers sacrificed their lives while bringing comfort to the victims of the infection.

Today, in caring for the sick, consecrated religious women and men are outnumbered by a multitude of medical and emergency personnel. Some of them are motivated by Christian faith; others,

formed in a secular mentality or of another religion, work side by side with Christian believers.

In his blessing to the world last Friday, the Pope praised the work of the Spirit of God who animates believers and unbelievers alike.

*“So many exemplary companions, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. Our lives are sustained by ordinary people, who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.”*

The end is not in sight. We turn to the beauty of daily spiritual communion.

Even though we are still deprived of the sacramental presence of Christ, we could meditate with Pope Francis upon the miracle of the universal presence of the Holy Spirit who guides and inspires all that is good in the world’s history.

We pray for deceased medical and emergency personnel: May the souls of the faithful departed and of those whose faith God alone has known (cf. Eucharistic Prayer IV #122) rest in peace. Amen.