

# *Powerlessness and Resurrection*

*A Reflection on the Readings for Monday, April 1st, 2013*

*[Monday of the Octave of Easter]*

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Christians frequently speak of Jesus “*rising* from the dead.” Yet this way of describing the Easter event gives the impression that Jesus, while suffering greatly during his “passion,” was always in control of the situation and on Easter rose *by his own power*. There is truth in this perspective but it is one which sets Jesus’ passion apart from our own experiences of pain, suffering and death—experiences often marked by the horror of powerlessness and loss of control. We know all too well that the suffering that can attack our soul, what the Simone Weil referred to as “affliction,” is the suffering we can’t control, the pain we can no longer manage.

By contrast, St. Peter preached that “God *raised him* up . . . .” Peter’s way of putting it invites an alternative insight. The crucifixion was more than Jesus enduring a painful death that he knew he would overcome in but a few days. No, he died utterly powerless and frightened (remember his achingly vulnerable prayer in the garden) relying not on his own inner resources but trusting instead in the power of his Father to raise him up. Jesus went to the Cross in complete solidarity with all men and women who experience in life the terrifying powerlessness of pain, suffering and death. In the face of our own suffering Jesus invites us to join him in trusting abandonment to the love of God who, we believe, shall raise us up to life eternal.