



## HOLY SATURDAY

### Morning

Georges Bernanos wrote in *Diary of a Country Priest*:

"We are all called, yes. Only not in the same way. And to simplify things, I start by trying to put each of us in our true place in the Gospel. Oh, sure, that makes us 2000 years younger. But then what? Time is nothing to the good Lord, his gaze passes right through. I tell myself that long before we were born, to speak in human language, our Lord met us somewhere: in Bethlehem, in Nazareth, on the roads of Galilee, who knows. One day between days, his eyes were fixed on us. "

**This morning we propose that you come together to remember the life of Jesus, the way in which each of us is touched by an aspect, a word, a healing. To remember as we remember someone we love who has left us. So let us dare to share what touches us personally in the life of Jesus, what makes us live!**

**/ The one who presides over this moment opens by saying: / "I am a man of God.**

**In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Most good Father,  
Your Son Jesus passed by doing good.  
We bless you for all that we have received from Him,  
We recognize in it a shining sign of your love.  
He gave himself up to death so that all men might be saved.  
Now we want to tell you and each other what we find particularly beautiful in the life of your Son,  
what moves us, what makes us live.

## Time of sharing

**This time of sharing can be concluded with the Our Father**

**THE OUR FATHER**  
Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
**Amen.**

# HOLY SATURDAY

## Easter Vigil

**The celebration begins in the living room (or other appropriate common room in the house) with the lights off. A decorated table, an icon of Christ (or an image, perhaps a crucifix) laid flat, a candle (if possible painted, decorated, this is your house Easter candle!) placed, extinguished. Everyone stands in a semi-circle around the table, in silence.**

**True to our scouting spirit, we can also light a fire in the garden, and start the ceremony there.**



The head of the family celebration says:

"From the depths I cry out to you Lord

And all respond:

"Let your ear be attentive to the cry of my prayer.

**Then the head of the family introduces the reading by saying:**

Let us listen together to the Word of God, let us open our ears and our hearts, let us be attentive, for God is speaking to us. Already, so long ago, God freed his people from the slavery of Egypt, he showed in advance what he really wanted to do, to free us from all slavery, and especially from the worst: death. "

One of the children (if possible) in the house reads (in a loud voice):

### Reading from the Book of Exodus 14:15-15:1

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers." The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians. Then the LORD told Moses, stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh's whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry

land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

**/ The head of the family raises the icon and holds it upright (with a bookrest, a pile of books, etc.), visible on the table. As soon as this is done, he lights the decorated candle placed in front of the icon./**

At this point another family member reads the following text:

"Here we are, it's the big Easter night. We have all been preparing for weeks, as a family and in our hearts. We have made efforts to show Jesus that we love him, and to purify ourselves, to live this night fully. We have removed from our hearts everything that hurts us. Jesus, we are ready, we are happy, we are joyful! This night is the most important of our whole year, more than Christmas, more than New Year's Day, or a victory of the Irish rugby team. This night we remember, here in our homes and in our hearts, the Resurrection of Jesus. So I announce to you the greatest joy imaginable, Christ Jesus has conquered all death, Christ Jesus this very night comes out of the tomb alive and takes us with him, so this night let our tears of joy flow and let our cries of joy resound in this house: Christ is alive! "

**Once the text has been read, the daughters of the house pass the flame to everyone (each one holding a lighted candle) while a Alleluia is sung: [Chant of the Mystics: Divine Gregorian Chant "O filii et filiae"](#) (beautiful, moving, with all one's heart, it is the first one for forty days!).**

## Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Mark 16:1-7 **HE IS RISEN!**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'"

The Gospel of the Lord ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ***

[SHORT TIME OF SILENCE]

**/ The head of the family invites each member (if he or she wishes) to give a prayer intention and/or mention the name of a person he or she wishes to unite at this time.**

Then the smallest member of the family goes to each member of the family...

...and says in his or her ear softly: "**Christ is risen**"

Each one answers in his ear as well: '**He is truly risen**'.

And finally the parents together say loudly: "**Christ is risen**".

And the whole family answers unanimously with great joy: "**He is truly risen**".

The head of the family concludes:

"So may our joy know no night, may the light of the Resurrection invade our house, may we be ever more witnesses to it for this world! Blessed be the Eternal Father who has blessed us in his Son Jesus Christ, whom he raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. "

## Amen! Happy Easter!

**/ It is very appropriate that the rest of the evening be spent with the family over a feast or good pastries prepared in the afternoon.../**