## Ascension A - 2023

## Nietzsche and Hitler:

Nietzsche, the German philosopher, said, "God is dead and the stench of his corpse is all across Europe." He advocated humanism and proposed the development of a "superman" of Aryan heritage, protected by selective breeding and superior education. The Nazi Party picked up his idea, and men like Hitler, Goering, Goebbels, Mengele, Himmler, and Rommel set about building such a society in Germany's Third Reich. But it all ended with bullets and bombs, chaos and suffering such as the world has seldom seen. — The Christian Faith has no less a plan. But it involves a higher order. Hitler would have renewed man by his own efforts. We seek to renew the human race by the work of God. Our mission as given by the ascending Jesus is not to make converts Church members. but baptized, receptive, obedient disciples! (https://frtonyshomilies.com/).

## The power within:

A Jesuit priest, Walter Ciszek by name, was in Russia for 23 years, five of which were spent in the dreaded Lubyanka prison in Moscow and ten of which were spent in the harsh Siberian slave labour camp. He was finally released from Russia in 1963, in exchange for two Soviet spies held in USA. He died in 1984 at the age of 84. After release he wrote a book "He Leadeth Me." In this book he tries to answer the question: 'How did you manage to survive in Russia?' he says: "I was able to endure the inhuman conditions in which I found myself because I experienced somehow the presence of God. I never lost my Faith that God was with me, even in the worst of circumstances." — What was true of Fr. Walter Ciszek is true of each of us. Jesus is with us; God is with us in the power of the Holy Spirit. (Vima Dasan in His Word Lives; quoted in Net for Life). (https://frtonyshomilies.com/).

## Missionary ants

A party of missionaries was sitting at tea one afternoon, when suddenly an ant appeared on the white tablecloth, made its way to one of the tea plates, walked around it, and finding nothing to eat there, made straight for the sugar basin. After eating some bits of sugar, it went off with a piece, the party watched it go off the table, down the table leg, along the floor of the room, and disappear underneath the door. Not long afterwards, it returned with several of its relations, climbed up the leg of the table marched along, the top and led by the first ant, they all entered the sugar basin. After they had eaten their fill of sugar, they all departed, each with a piece of sugar in its mouth. But that was not all--presently a swarm of ants arrived to partake of the same sweet food.

What a great lesson those ants teach us. The one who came first of all, went and told others the "good news"; they in turn went out and told the glad story to many more.

Shall we let the ants put us to shame?? Like Isaiah, the demoniac who was healed, the woman of Samaria and others, we must go and tell the glad story of God's redeeming love to others.