

Notes from the Liturgist...

Even in DARKNESS there is LIGHT **(Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil)**

From the previous article, I shared with you the second day of the Triduum (Good Friday). Remember: on Good Friday there's no Eucharist or Celebration of the Holy Mass but the Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Cross and Holy Communion; Communion was consecrated from Holy Thursday Mass.

This weekend, I am going to share with you the last day of the Triduum: The Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil celebration. Holy Saturday is the only day that we do not do church Liturgy until dusk. There is total silence, a time of sorrow and mourning because we contemplate that Jesus is in the tomb; He is dead. Jesus' rest in the tomb will exactly be our own rest in the tomb when our time comes. As we mourn the death of Jesus, we also contemplate the mystery of our death. Also, we prepare our hearts to receive the Good News of life and resurrection. We believe that the tomb will be empty and remain empty forever as a sign that our lives will not really end, but only be transformed. One day we will be all in the hands of God, who knows our death and who prepares a place for us in everlasting life.



At dusk, the Holy Mother Church vigils for the Resurrection of our Lord. We normally start the Easter Vigil when it is dark; this year, we will celebrate the Paschal Vigil not earlier than 8:30pm.

This holy night, the Holy Mother Church gathers in darkness, a darkness that represents all that we have been reflecting upon today (the time of mourning). The beginning of that night is the liturgy of lighting of a new fire. That flame is shared to the members of the Body of Christ (the pilgrim people) until the light fills the church. Then, the song of exultation (exsultet) will be sung, signifying that Christ is the Light. After the "exsultet", the readings from the Sacred Scriptures are proclaimed to prepare us to celebrate God's victory over death, God's revelation. After reading the Sacred Scriptures, the liturgy of the sacrament of Initiation and the renewal of our baptismal vows take place. Lastly the Church is called to the table of the Lord, the memorial of his passion, death and resurrection. The mystery of our salvation is God rescuing us from the power of sin and death. The God who suffered, crucified and died was raised from death. We can rejoice that death has no final victory. We can celebrate our faith that we have been baptized into the death of our Lord, so that we might be baptized into his life.

My dear friends, our reflection on this Holy Saturday and our anticipation of celebrating the gift of the life on Easter Vigil and the Easter Season, can bring immense peace and joy, powerful freedom and vitality to our lives. For if we truly believe that death holds no true power over us, we can journey each day in the grace being offered us to give our lives away in love.