

Notes from the Liturgist...

...because by Your Holy Cross YOU have REDEEMED the World (Good Friday)

In the last weekend's article, I mainly focused on the first day of the Triduum: The Institution of the Holy Eucharist (The Lord's Supper) and the Washing of the Apostles' Feet. This weekend, let me share with you about the second day of the Triduum: The **Good Friday!**

Good Friday is the very day when members of the Catholic Church commemorate the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. Catholics all over the world and all other Christian denominations celebrate



the commemoration of the salvation of humankind. In the Gospel, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper. He was brought to the highest Jewish leaders. He was condemned for blasphemy; they don't believe him that he was the Son of God. The Jewish leaders persecuted Jesus and they plotted to kill Him. They asked him to carry the cross to Mount Calvary, then He was nailed on the cross. He was crucified between the two thieves. Through that cross, the world was redeemed. The cross, the sign of the cross and the crucifix are symbols of Christ and reminder of our salvation. The most essential Catholic object of devotion is a crucifix – a cross with the image of Christ's body nailed on it. Crucifixes are always found in Catholic churches and chapels over the Altar or mounted on the middle of the wall of the sanctuary (unfortunately we do not have one here in our church) AND are always carried in liturgical processions.

Good Friday is a day of fasting as we mourn for the death of Christ. The church is stripped of its ornaments; the altar is bare, and with the door of the tabernacle open, which means empty. These gestures are signs of our mourning. This day is called the Pasch (passage) of the Crucifixion.

On **Good Friday**, the entire Church fixes her gaze on the Cross at Calvary. Each of the **Body of the Christ (the members of the Church)** tries to understand at what cost Christ has won our redemption. In the Liturgy of the Word, we hear the story of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. After being fed by the WORDS, the priest presents the cross to the Body of Christ for adoration, and then we receive Him in the form of communion (consecrated hosts of the previous celebration as Good Friday celebration is not a Mass). We unite ourselves to our Savior, and we contemplate our own death to sin through the Death of our Lord. This is the only day that there is NO Mass and NO celebration of the Eucharist. Baptism, penance and anointing of the sick may be performed in case of emergency, but NO funerals performed on Good Friday.

My dear friends, adoration or veneration of the image of Christ nailed on cross does not mean that we actually adore the image, but rather what it represents. In giving our reverence

through kneeling or kissing of the cross, we are showing our highest honor to the Lord's cross as the symbol of our salvation. Through adoring or venerating this great symbol of our salvation, we can truly say: "We Adore You O Christ, and we praise You... because by Your Holy Cross You have REDEEMED the World.

-Ace Tupasi