

Notes from the Liturgist...

The Cross: The Instrument of Salvation!

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated every year on September 14. It reminds us the importance of the Holy Cross in our daily lives.

This article for this weekend is all about the Holy Cross that was borrowed from the ***Office of the Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Portland Issue 11- August 2018, chapter 2.***

It's easy to understand that the Cross is special because Christ used it as the instrument of our salvation. But after His Resurrection, why would Christian continue to look to the Cross?

Christ Himself offered us the answer: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Lk. 9:23). The point of taking up our own cross is not simply self-sacrifice; in doing, so we, unite ourselves to the sacrifice of Christ on His Cross.

When we participate in the Mass, the Cross is there, too. The "un-bloody sacrifice" offered on the altar is the re-presentation of Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross. When we received the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we do not simply unite ourselves to Christ; we nail ourselves to the Cross, dying with Christ so that we might rise with Him.

For Jews require signs, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews indeed a stumbling block, and unto the Gentiles foolishness... (1Cor.1:22-23). Today, more than ever, non-Christians see the Cross as foolishness. What kind of Savior triumphs through death?

For Christians, however, the Cross is the crossroads of history and the Tree of Life. Christianity without the Cross is meaningless. Only by uniting ourselves to Christ to Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross can we enter into eternal life.