Holy Saturday

HIDDEN

“Today a great silence reigns on earth, a great silence and a great stillness. A great stillness because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and has raised up all who have slept since the world began… ” I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead.” - Liturgy of the Hours, Holy Saturday

MEANING OF HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday we remember that no matter how hard the world tries to keep Christ hidden, He bursts forth in resurrection glory through His Church. "Make sure he's dead!" were the instructions given to the centurion who pierced the side of the Lord. The lance made sure that he was dead physically, as blood and water flowed from our savior's side; but he needed to remain dead in influence as well. The tomb was being closely watched that no one would steal the body and spread the rumor of a resurrection. On Holy Saturday the world without Jesus thought it could now go back to life as normal. Holy Saturday is the part of the Triduum that is observed mostly by an absence of attention. To those of us who believe, it is reminds us of the hopelessness that would permanently have inhabited the world, had not the savior risen from the dead. Today, everyone seems to simply go about their business in their own way, following whatever custom and tradition they personally embrace while the body of Christ remains buried. They want Him to remain in the tomb where He can't do anything to mess up their way of life. They want Him silent and hidden. It makes their life easier; they can stay in control and not worry about such burdensome things as sin and judgment.

The Congregation for the Divine Liturgy and the Discipline of the Sacraments, states “On Holy Saturday, the Church pauses at the Lord's tomb, meditating his Passion and Death, his descent into Hell, and, with prayer and fasting, awaits his resurrection.” For the faithful, Holy Saturday is a day of waiting and preparing as Mary did near the tomb of her son. While Mary did not really know what would happen next, there was a sense of anticipation that there is more to come; a sense we need to keep with us today. We can identify with her in our own waiting. However, we live on the other side of the empty tomb. We are readying ourselves for the shout of hope, "He is risen! He is risen! He is risen, indeed!" We must remember this Easter proclamation is not just for us in the privacy, within the walls of the church. The world still wants us to be silent. As Christians we need to remember that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work within us today!

For your prayer

The Gospel for the Easter Vigil is Matthew 28:1-10 and I invite you to read and imagine it. Please reflect on how meditating on your tree of sin during the Lenten Season has led you to the Resurrection. God does not desire you to be dead in sin but alive in Christ.