

## REFLECTION on GOOD FRIDAY -Cycle "A" 10Apr 2020

Gospel: John 18:1 – 19:42

First Reading : Isaiah 52:-53:1          Psalm: 31:2,6,12-13,15-16,17,25

Hebrews: 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Good Friday is a day which calls each person regardless of age or generation to stop & in the quiet of one's heart to hear God's whisper that the door to eternal life has been opened. It is a day also to realize the great pain and suffering that Christ underwent to free us from the bonds of sin, which was done out of love a love so deep and profound that it would be beyond us were it not for the grace of God. **Pain is something we try to avoid** – possibly seeking help through the doctor & a prescription of pain medication to cope. Jesus walked toward it knowing & wishing the Father would take the cup of suffering away. Though Jesus deep in prayer said, "Yes Father", (**thy will be done**) – they both love us so much – that the Father allowed the crucifixion to happen, so the scourge of death would end.

Growing up, I had a lot of timeouts due to my lack of saintly actions; being easily led, going & doing things I was encouraged to avoid. I was so consistent that my dad once said "When are you going to change, I can read you like a book." Like the time he found me by the railroad tracks standing by a fire we had made, 2 rules broken that day, fire & railroad tracks, which caused more time in the bedroom to reflect. During my timeouts I discovered a love of technology though in my youth it was simple (looking back) like the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still". I would love to dream about it, the robot, the spaceship & laser beams. In our lifetime the progress has been astounding – yet today we have encountered the coronavirus – which has brought life to a virtual standstill – even with all the technology.

God created us with the amazing ability to develop technology & through medical science to seek cures like the one being developed to defeat this virus. Yet God in knowing our limits sent His only Son & the gift of Faith so we may know Him & seek Him. Yet the effects of sin has resulted in a chasm between where we are (in the flesh) & God. **Today we reflect on the Cross & the suffering of Christ who died on the Cross so that we might have eternal life with Him.**

Yes my acts of impatience are detractors and in effect our eyes are clouded by these & other imperfections. In doing them we are defusing the brightness of the light as in the image of a fog as it thickens. It defuses the light even more – to the point we could miss the destination which you & I seek. The Cross seems an odd beacon of light – the glow to human eyes seems dimmed by all the blood & cries of deep overwhelming pain. How could the pain which is before our eyes in the words of our listening (The Gospel of

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John 18:1 – 19:42 the Passion of the Lord) cause us to embrace this path knowing we will drink the cup of pain before walking thru the door of heaven.

Jesus himself asked that the cup of suffering be taken away – but knew the pain soon to come & the love of the Father who awaited Him – and the out pouring of pure love – so strong that no pain could overcome. This is the love of the light – which can burn through the fog of our weaknesses. We have in some cases carried these weaknesses our whole life. When we look to the Cross even with eyes to avert the pain & suffering we see we are drawn not by the pain but the love so plain to see. On this Good Friday we are invited to reflect on the depth of love with the longing of Christ that we love him & share this love with others.

Our Lord tells Peter you too will drink of the cup, which tells us we will drink of the cup also, knowing it is a cup containing the path of hope & the reality we will one day be with Him in heaven. The virtues of Faith, Hope & Love are true & foundational as we contemplate today the death of Our Savior on the Cross. It is in our (yours& my) contemplation that we seek God's forgiveness for the sins we have committed. Even our failings going forward that Christ suffered for - yes the Sacrament of Reconciliation offers forgiveness – knowing sin causes death & it is death that was defeated today by the Christ. The victory though was won at great cost. One can only imagine upon reflection, the mental anxiety, the pain of the scourging, the crowning of thorns, the carrying of the cross (all the sins of man) and the crucifixion itself. Jesus' love was bared to all as one who was innocent dying for us. **This is the cost that Christ willingly took on at the Fathers request, because of God's underlying love for you & I. Pass the word, God is good & we are good when we live according to his Word.**

In a Letter to the Hebrews (12: 1-13) let us reflect on the following while we also pray for those sick & dying from the coronavirus as well as the nation and all countries in this time of great need & suffering.

*"...lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead; let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires & perfects our faith. ..."*

God Bless

Deacon Mike