

Fr. Ed
Good Friday 2020
Reflection/Homily

For at least a decade if not more, there has been a piece of jewelry that never stood right with me. When I would see a sideways cross on a gold chain it always struck me as odd. I think this was so because on some level I felt that it was disrespectful. At the same time, God has a way of taking things and turning them upside down. For example, Jesus' death on The Cross may have seemed in vain to some at the time. However, Jesus' death became a key to eternal life as Jesus offered humanity back to the Father as a perfect sacrifice on the Altar of the Cross. So too, the Lord can turn upside down my interpretation of the sideways cross.

Over time, the sideways cross started to remind me of a key. Keys open doors that lead us to shelter, whether it be from tornadoes or snowflakes, we seek to open doors to enter into the shelter of our homes. Today, on Good Friday, we are reminded The Cross is the key to life. However, at times we are conscious that we may very well have sought after other keys.

In the Psalm response today from Psalm 31 we hear, *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit*. In life, we can get distracted and give our spirit to other things other than the Lord which we might perceive to be the keys to joy, happiness, and life. Now that we've had to time to reflect more in these days of shelter in place, maybe we've become more attune to those other keys. Even more so, maybe we're more aware that the keys we've been chasing did not lead to the peace and joy we thought they would. Even though we might not be gathering as we typically do on Good Friday, God has a way of turning things upside down and making a new way for His grace to get in. This sheltering in place is holy interruption and graced opportunity if we allow it to be.

Today, on this Good Friday, as we celebrate a life-saving death, the grain of wheat falling to the ground and producing much fruit (Jn 12:24), may we embrace The Cross for the key to life that it is. When we need to die to self, embrace the key to life. When in need of mercy and forgiveness, embrace the key to life. When we need to know things will be ok, embrace the key to life. When in need of knowing how much you are loved, embrace the key to life. Embrace the Cross, it will unlock the life you so desire and lead to ever lasting joy.