

Good Friday Homily 2024

By human reason, the Cross is an instrument of punishment and death. As we stand in the shadow of the Cross, we are provoked by the paradox of joy and hope that it represents for us.

“Ave crux spes unica” - Hail to the Cross, our only hope. These words invite us to reflect deeply on the mystery of our salvation, achieved through the profound suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we meditate upon the passion and death of Jesus today, we are reminded by the letter to the Hebrews that despite his suffering, Jesus remains our compassionate high priest, who has experienced our weaknesses and temptations yet remained without sin (Heb 4:14-16).

It is through His suffering, manifested on the cross, that we are encouraged to approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, assured of His mercy and eager to receive His grace.

Let us draw a parallel with the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel greeted Mary with “Hail, full of grace,” announcing the good news that would change the course of history. Just as Mary’s “yes” opened the door to the incarnation, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, so too does the cross become a profound greeting to us all. It says “Hail, here is your salvation, here is your hope.”

The cross stands as the ultimate symbol of God’s love for us, a love so deep that He would sacrifice His only Son for our redemption. On the cross, Jesus took upon Himself the weight of our sins, the burden of our guilt, and the consequences of our brokenness. Through His sacrifice, we are offered forgiveness, freed from the chains of selfishness and sin, and granted the promise of eternal life.

As we venerate the cross today, let us see it not as an emblem of death and defeat but as the shining beacon of hope and life. Christ’s death opened for us the gateway to eternal communion with God. In His resurrection, we find the assurance of our own.

Therefore, my sisters and brothers, even in the midst of our sorrows and trials, we can “rejoice” and find gladness because of what Jesus has accomplished for us. Today, might we now approach the cross with a sense of profound gratitude and hope. Let us lay down our burdens at the foot of the cross, trusting in the merciful love of our Lord. And as we say, “Ave crux spes unica,” might we truly recognize the cross as our only hope, the wellspring of our joy, and the foundation of our faith.

In this sacred moment, let us recommit ourselves to following Jesus, carrying our own crosses with perseverance and faith, inspired by His supreme sacrifice. For in the cross, we find the fullness of life, love, and redemption. Indeed, in Jesus Christ, our Lord, we place all our hope, today and forever. Amen.