**Homily for Good Friday – Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (2025)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, we stand to celebrate the Passion and Death of Christ for our salvation. **Good Friday invites us to reflect on the Love of God, a love that embraces suffering and sacrifice so that we might be redeemed.**

**In the Passion narrative, we see Jesus endure unimaginable pain and rejection.** **Betrayed by Judas Iscariot, denied by Peter, abandoned by His followers, and condemned by the crowd,** Jesus takes up His Cross and goes to Calvary. He carries His cross, bearing the weight of humanity's sins; He suffers and dies, though He is blameless and innocent.

**Why would God choose to suffer for us?** The answer lies in love, and in love lies the meaning of the Cross of Jesus: **The Cross of Jesus is not just a symbol of pain; it is the ultimate sign of God's unconditional love for each of us.**

**Good Friday also calls us to contemplate our own response to this love.** If God loves me (you, us), how do I respond to His love? How do I correspond to God’s love?

As we witness Jesus' suffering, we are reminded of **the price** **of sin** and **the cost of redemption.** Do we recognize the gravity of His sacrifice? Do we turn away from sin and seek to live in holiness? Are we willing to take up our own crosses and follow Him?

**Let us also take a moment to think about Jesus' final words from the Cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."** This is the challenge of the Cross, because whenever we sign ourselves with the Cross of Jesus, we remember what He did for us, and commit ourselves to imitate Him in every single details of His life. **This is to mean that in the face of hatred and violence, like Jesus who responds with mercy, we are invited to do the same. His forgiveness invites us to forgive others, to let go of resentment, and to be peacemakers in a world so often divided.**

Today [tonight] is a [day] time of **mourning,** but it is also a day of **hope**. **The Cross, which seemed to mark the end, becomes the beginning of new life;** the tree from which we have the fruits of our salvation. Through His death, Jesus opens the way to resurrection and eternal life. As we await the joy of Easter, let us cling to this hope and trust in God's plan for our salvation.

As we venerate the Cross tonight [today], **may we see in IT the love that transforms, the mercy that redeems, and the grace that sustains us.** Let us bow before the Cross in humility, gratitude, knowing that through it, we are made new.

Loving Father,

on this solemn day, we remember the Passion and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank You for the depth of Your love, revealed through His sacrifice on the cross. Help us to embrace the cross in our own lives and to follow the example of Christ in forgiveness, humility, and love. As we await the joy of Easter, strengthen our faith and renew our hope. May the cross be a sign of Your saving grace and a reminder of Your unfailing mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.