

## Good Friday 2020

My beloved ones, there is no denying the darkness of these times in which we are now living. In my seventy years, I never imagined, nor have I ever seen a time without the Sacraments, especially during Holy Week. Sometimes it seems as if the darkness that is now covering the entire world is seeping into our very hearts and minds. The rate of suicide throughout the world has grown to epidemic proportions. We are constantly being besieged with bad news and the message of death. It is hard for people to “see the light at the end of the tunnel.” However, on this day we call: “Good Friday,” we are called to the Cross of Jesus Christ and called to enter into the Divine Mystery of His suffering and death—and, His promise of Resurrection. I have an image of total eclipse of the sun from a couple of years ago. One of our parishoners took the photo of the eclipse, and it is quite unique. I was with my sister in Anacortes, Washington during the eclipse, and got to see it with some of our neighbors in the RV Park, who were professional photographers, who had a special telescope set up, with special lenses, and they shared the experience with us.

The picture is really quite amazing. It shows the image of the sun, almost totally obscured by the moon. I remember that moment very graphically, it was actually quite dark in the RV Park, as this was in the area where the eclipse was total, (it was here in Cody as well!). Nonetheless, in the photo, at the Apex of the dark globe of the moon covering the sun, a Ray of the Sun appears over the dark globe, as a very bright cross, of which the vertical member of the cross is surmounted across the dark globe of the moon and sun! I just happened to look at the picture yesterday (Wednesday) and said to myself: “That is the image I am going to use for my Good Friday homily!” It is the profound statement that no darkness on earth, no darkness of disease, sin or death, can conquer the Divine Light of God’s mercy that shines forth from the cross of the Lord Jesus! This is the promise of Good Friday! There is no darkness in this world, there is no evil so dark, no suffering so great, no human desolation so great, nothing, nothing can obscure the bright white light of the Glory of God in His Divine Mercy for us! There is no death so dark, that the Glory of God’s mercy cannot penetrate and save a soul, lost and mired in sin; for such is the Divine Mercy of God for us!

The Cross is the triumph of God's love over the greatest evil that has ever been done, the unjust crucifixion of our God and Savior Jesus Christ! At the moment that Jesus dies, the Centurion and the Roman Soldiers at the foot of the Cross cry out: "Surely this is the Son of God!" The ironic sign hung over the naked and torn body of the Christ proclaims: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews!" The King who refused to come down from the cross, who remains: King of the Jews and the King of all of humanity since sinful Adam and Eve: He reigns from the throne of Divine Love!

In this time of doubt, in which we see many who give way to despair, remind your friends, neighbors and family: He reigns. With the Ancient Church let us declare: "O Christ, we bless you, for by your Holy Cross, you have saved the World!"