

HOMILY: GOOD FRIDAY

Today, Good Friday, we remember, in a special way, Jesus' sacrifice of perfect obedience to God to save mankind from sin. Jesus died on the cross to break the barrier between man and God.

The cross is the highest point of God's search for sinful people that took place in Jesus' identification of himself with sinners and at the same time is the highest point of a life of perfect obedience to the Father.

We will shortly see the ceremony of the exposition of the Cross. This is the central point of the Good Friday ceremonies.

The cross stands as immovable monument of the love and mercy of God. It remains the only source of redemption and salvation for the world. God decreed that man and woman should be saved through the wood of the cross.

The question I would like to ask here is: **What is our attitude toward the cross and the one who hung on it?**

Just as the people: the members of the council of elders, soldiers, women, men citizens and foreign pilgrims who stood around the cross on the first Good Friday differed in their attitude to him who hung on the cross; some had positive and others negative, so today men and women differ in their attitude to the cross and ultimately the savior who hung on it.

Where do you stand about the cross? What is your attitude to him who hung on the cross? Do we have positive or negative attitude to him?

I believe we who have gathered here this evening to honor and adore our savior on the cross have positive attitude to him.

We can say that we have positive attitude to him if, in the first place, we do not see the Church or Christianity or religion as a burden. Some of us see religion as a burden so we just go through it without any commitment. We go to Mass on Sundays, we do our Easter duties and we do all that the church demands of us without commitment. For some of us too Masses are timed with stop-watch. Every extra minute spent on them is time lost.

The Church in this world is the sacrament of Christ's salvation, the sign and instrument of the communion of God and men and women. So we should not see Christianity as a burden. We should not go through it without any commitment.

Secondly, whenever we do not close our ears to every call of grace we show positive attitude to Jesus who hung on the cross. We cause the savior pain anytime we refuse to respond to his call of grace. What use is mercy if the sinner is not willing to reconcile with the savior? What use is this service if we are not ready to reconcile with Christ?

Finally, we can say we have positive attitude to the one who hung on the cross if we commit our cause to him even if we are worried, confused and dejected.

As we go through life we meet so much that seems beyond our strength, we are troubled, we struggle, we wonder about the hidden meaning of events, especially when we experience the deception of people we trust.

When we find ourselves in such situations we have to turn to Jesus with a heart sure of his closeness.

On this day of grace as we say, 'Lord by your cross and resurrection you have redeemed the world' let us not count ourselves out of this redemptive act of Jesus. Let us unite ourselves more closely to him and lead a life of obedience to God the Father.