

## **Homily Good Friday 2022**

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When turning on our televisions the last several weeks we have seen so many scenes of death and destruction in Ukraine. We ask ourselves why? I have seen several interviews of Ukraine people who are grieving the loss of family members and friends and yet they say “I forgive them because that is what Jesus teaches.”

Maybe without realizing it, we have become complacent in our understanding of what Life and Death are all about. Society has trained us to only look at life and avoid focusing on death. We avoid it because it causes us anxiety. However, there is good news.

We just heard an amazing Gospel. How can we hear the account of Jesus’ Passion and not be moved by it? Maybe we have heard it so many times, we have allowed it to lose its power. The power of Jesus on the cross. The love God has for us.

As we walk with Jesus these final days before Easter, with all our fears, all our questions, and anxiety, we need to realize that the only power that can overcome death is God’s love through Christ. This includes our physical death as well as the death of our souls through sin.

If we are burdened with guilt and sin, burdened with the pain of the death of a relationship, a marriage, isolation, or from uncertain times, all these things are certainly causes of great sadness.

Scriptures tell us that the only thing that overcomes death is God’s love in Jesus.

Today we are called to “reverence the cross.” Let’s take all our deadly things including our fears, our sins, and doubts and hand them over to Christ. Ask him to lift your burdens.

Today we don’t celebrate death, we celebrate the life that we receive through the cross. We learn the meaning of forgiveness as Christ forgave one who was hanging on the cross beside Him. Forgiving even when we have deep hurt in our heart as some in Ukraine have done.

On Sunday we will celebrate the joy of the resurrection of Christ who earned us the opportunity for eternal life with His Father in heaven.

If Jesus had not risen from the dead, it would have just been another execution in history and we would not be here today celebrating the power God’s love for us through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Death does not end our lives but changes our lives for eternal life.

Have you forgiven others, reconciled with Jesus and prepared your soul for the love God has for you?