



GOOD FRIDAY HOMILY 2024

Story: (Need cross behind altar)

A bishop told the story of a young man who for several weeks stood outside the Cathedral, shouting derogatory slogans at the people entering to worship. He called them fools, naïve, stupid at the top of his voice. The people tried to ignore him but it was almost impossible to do so.

Finally, the parish priest went outside to confront the young man. The young man ranted and raved against everything the priest said to him. Finally, the priest suggested a deal to the young man:

"Look, let's get this over once and for all. I want to offer you a dare and bet that you will be unable to do it."

The cynical young man retorted that he could do anything this white robed wimp proposed!

The priest made this suggestion: "All I ask is that you come into the sanctuary of the church with me and stare at the figure of Christ on the cross. I want you to scream at the top of your lungs, as loud as you can,

"Christ died on the cross for me, and I do not care one bit." (Invite the people to do this four times – louder each time while looking at the cross)

After four times the young man raised his fist defiantly, kept looking at the crucifix, but now the words would not come.

He just could not look at the face of Christ and say that any more.

The story concluded with the bishop saying, "I was that young man. That defiant young man was me. I thought I did not need God but found out that I was wrong and I am here to tell you that today."

May we learn from that young man how much we need the Lord and how much we are connected to the Lord by the cross.

Source of the story: ***Take-Home Homilies: For Personal Prayer and Communal Reflection*** by L. Patrick Carroll, Outskirts Press, 2019, p. 723-724)