

From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

March 30, 2025

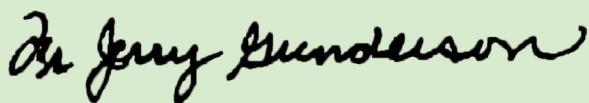
Dear Friends,

For Lent, I am trying to keep the Triduum as a sharp focus, because deep within it is the Paschal mystery. Today I will share the reflections of Pope Francis regarding Good Friday.

Good Friday is the day of penance, fasting and prayer. Through the texts of the Sacred Scripture and the liturgical prayers, we will gather as though we were on Calvary to commemorate the redemptive Passion and Death of Jesus Christ. In the intensity of the rite, through the Liturgical Action, the Crucifix will be presented to us to adore. Adoring the Cross, we will relive the journey of the innocent Lamb sacrificed for our salvation. We will carry in our minds and hearts the sufferings of the sick, the poor, the rejected of this world; we will remember the “sacrificed lambs,” the innocent victims of wars, dictatorships, everyday violence, abortions.... Before the image of the crucified God, we will bring, in prayer, the many, the too many who are crucified in our time, who only from Him can receive comfort and meaning in their suffering. And nowadays there are many: do not forget, ever since Jesus took upon himself the wounds of humanity and death itself, God’s love has irrigated these deserts of ours, he has enlightened our darkness. Because the world is in darkness. Let us make a list of all the wars that are being fought in this moment; of all the children who die of hunger; of children who have no education; of entire populations destroyed by wars, by terrorism. Of the many, many people who, just to feel a bit better, need drugs... There are small “islands” of the people of God, both Christian and of all other faiths, that hold in their heart the desire to be better.

But let us tell the truth: in this Calvary of death, it is Jesus who suffers in his disciples. During his ministry, the Son of God disseminated life by the handful, healing, forgiving, reviving... Now, in the hour of his supreme Sacrifice on the cross, he brings to fulfillment the task entrusted to him by the Father: he enters into the abyss of suffering, he enters into these disasters of this world, to redeem and transform. And also, to free every one of us from the power of darkness, of pride, of resistance to being loved by God. And this, only God’s love can do this. “By his wounds we have been healed.” (see 1 Pt 2: 24), the apostle Peter says, by his death we have been reborn, all of us, the crucified of our time... Ever since Jesus took upon himself the wounds of humanity and death itself, God’s love has irrigated these deserts of ours, he has enlightened our darkness. Because the world is in darkness. Let us make a list of all the wars that are being fought in this moment; of all the children who die of hunger; of children who have no education; of entire populations destroyed by wars, by terrorism. Of the many, many people who, just to feel a bit better, need drugs... It is a disaster; it is a desert! There are small “islands” of the people of God, both Christian and of all other faiths, that hold in their heart the desire to be better.

But let us tell the truth: in this Calvary of death, it is Jesus who suffers in his disciples. During his ministry, the Son of God disseminated life by the handful, healing, forgiving, reviving... Now, in the hour of his supreme Sacrifice on the cross, he brings to fulfillment the task entrusted to him by the Father: he enters into the abyss of suffering, he enters into these disasters of this world, to redeem and transform... And thanks to him, abandoned on the cross, no one will ever again be alone in the darkness of death. Never, he is always beside us: we need only open our heart and let ourselves be looked upon by him. Pope Francis, Holy Week Reflections 2021



Fr. Jerry Gunderson