

Good Friday

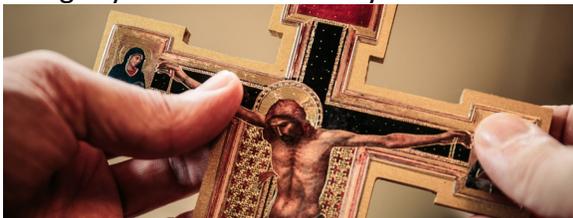
4.10.20

Isaiah 52:13-53:12/Hebrews 4:14-16;5:7-9/
John 18:1- 19:42

EMBRACING THE CROSS AND TAKING THE RISK OF LOVE

The moment you say “I love you,” you’re letting yourself in for a world of grief. Because every relationship, no matter how loving, no matter how committed, has its struggles – its ups and downs, its peaks and valleys. Love is a risk... so, be careful. The moment you say “I love you,” you’ve taken on a cross. It’s a cross you readily and happily take up — most of the time. Loving your spouse or your child or your mom and dad is terrific — but sometimes that love demands more of you than you’re ready to give at a particular moment. But you bear that cross because your happiness is tied up in theirs; their good is your good.

So you patiently negotiate the bad moods and the unreasonable demands, you get beyond your exhaustion to help with homework and distance learning, you make time that you don’t think you have to be there for them, you put aside your own doubts and fears, especially in this trying time, to reassure them. Yes, love can be a cross. The moment you say “I love you,” you’ve entered Good Friday. You open yourself up to all kinds of pain. You will be doubted, second-guessed, criticized, even rejected. So why on earth would any human being say to another “I love you”?



Because we know that every cross borne up in love is the means to joy and meaning -- that God is found in the landscape of grief. that the God of the Crucified One, the God

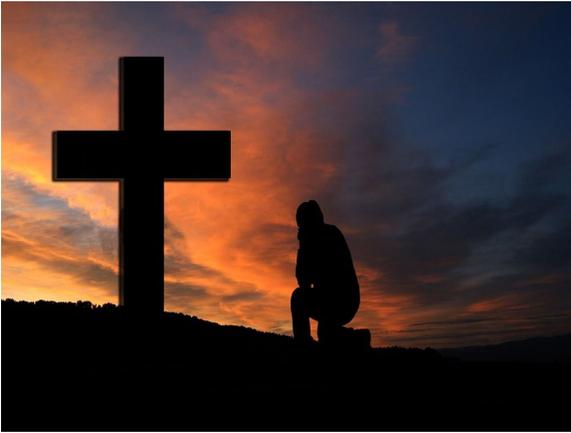
who allows himself to be broken as we break, will lift us out of our tombs of mourning That every Good Friday we take on will have its Easter morning.

That’s what this day is about: love that transcends hurt, love that heals brokenness, love that cannot be confined to whatever tomb we find ourselves buried in. Some sad folks refuse to take the risk. They’ve been crucified on that cross one too many times before. Better to stay safe and unhurt — if alone. But the light of this Good Friday is the hope that real love is worth the risk, that real love bears up, that real love’s Good Fridays are transformed into Easter’s dawn.



During these difficult days when our world is experiencing its own passion and cross, we need to keep in mind and hold on in our hearts to the hope which is at the center of our faith. *God so loved the world that he sent his only-begotten Son.* This is the world that God loved and the world that we love. That’s why our sorrow is so great and our burden so heavy. This is the world of people from every language and tongue, every culture and creed, every color and country. God’s desire, like our own, is for a world at peace, a world where no child is hungry, no family without a home, no person without a friend. a world where harmony exists and healing and wholeness thrive.

This is the prayer we bring before God as we stand together at the foot of the cross this Good Friday.



O God of compassion, at the foot of your Son's cross we are embraced in your love for all your daughters and sons. May we not hesitate to love with you fully and completely. By your grace, may we take on the risk of love, of compassion, of mercy, trusting that you bear with us whatever crosses we take on, and that every Good Friday we encounter for the sake of those we love be transformed into the joy and healing of Easter morning.

Fr. John Kasper, OSFS