



GOOD FRIDAY 2015

This year the first Friday of the month falls on this very sacred day. The entire church is praying and fasting and remembering the Passion. Stations of the Cross also are conducted in Church.

On this sacred day we reflect on a touching true story – The Wounded Healer.

(This story could be used as required – e.g.)

A Reflection on Good Friday In the Family

A conclusion to the Stations of the Cross

A 3 pm meditation for the sick and elderly

A young couple along with their 8 year old son went on their first trip to Europe. They had a wonderful time, touring the continent, experiencing various cultures, cuisines, people from different backgrounds, astonishingly beautiful places etc. Just 2 days before their departure, their car met with a horrific accident in France. The couple escaped with minor injuries, but their son was seriously injured. As he was wheeled into the operating theatre for serious injuries to the brain and lungs, they prayed to the Lord for strength in this excruciatingly difficult time. Nothing short of a miracle could save their son!

They were in a foreign land, no friends or family, language was another hindrance and now came the big issue of funds, as specialized medical treatment could not be delayed. A Catholic priest in the hospital spoke to the couple and strengthened them. He announced the couple's dire straits in church, the next day, Sunday and suddenly funds started pouring in from all directions for this couple. People young and old, came to the hospital to keep vigil with the couple, giving them much needed rest, fruits, home-made soups, whatever each could manage. Also

simultaneously, every country they couple had visited; the priest contacted his congregation and requested his fellow priests to make similar announcements. The couple was overwhelmed by the love and support. Even the doctors and nurses went way beyond their call of duty and stood rock solid 24x7 by the boy's side. But as the injuries were grave, the boy's little body could not survive the trauma. He passed away peacefully in a coma.

The young couple was surrounded by loving faces of strangers who mourned as though their own was lost. They were faced with the prospect of flying back home with their son's body. It was then that they made their decision – what do you think would have been the decision of this couple stuck in a strange land and faced with such an insurmountable loss (silence).

The young couple offered to donate the little boy's organs, whatever could be used for the benefit of others. Yes, the young boy's mortal end was the beginning of hope and a new life for many who received his vital gift. Yes, my dear brothers and sisters, Europe was stunned into silence by the sacrifice of this foreign couple and the little foreigner who laid down his life peacefully, so that others could be awakened. The European media ran the story on the front page till every soul was stirred into amazement.

Yes, The Wounded was indeed now The Healer.

HAVING BEEN HEALED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS, NOW IT IS OUR TURN TO BECOME HEALERS TO OTHERS.

HOLY HALF HOUR FOR MAY 1ST, 2015

HONOURING ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Introduction:

The feast of St. Joseph, husband of Mary and Patron of the Universal Church, is celebrated on March 20th. But today's feast commemorates St. Joseph as a carpenter, exemplifies the working people who are dignified by their labour and who bring Christ into their workplace. We associate the word 'worker' with the words 'career' or 'employment.' This association relates to our secular work. But what about our spiritual work? St. Joseph was a great model for all Christians. He was an artistic carpenter who loved to transform a piece of wood by creating useful objects. In his mind, he surely perceived that the wood that came from the trees was a God given gift.

Hymn: If you wish to be my disciple vs. 2 and 3

Pause for a few minutes.

Please sit as we listen to the reading from:

Genesis 1:26 - 2:3 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all His work which He had done in creation.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Let us pause a while, and bring to mind our kind of work, and ask St. Joseph to teach us to work as he did with patience and perseverance. To look upon work with the eyes of faith so that we recognize in it our share in God's own creative activity.

Pause for a few minutes

Let us stand and sing the Hymn : Without him I can do nothing

Prayer of Intercession:

Leader: Let us pray to God who gave St. Joseph the light and strength he needed to be faithful at all times.

Response: Lord hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father – Pope Francis, our Bishops priests and catechists, that they follow the example of St. Joseph and lead us through a responsible and dedicated leadership, we pray to the Lord: **Resp...**

For those responsible in various ministries in the church, that they may set a model Christian example to the people they lead, we pray to the Lord: **R/...**

For all workers, that they may be faithful to the duties assigned to them and enjoy the fruits of their labour in a worthy and responsible manner, we pray to the Lord: **R/....**

For the unemployed, that through the intercession of St. Joseph, they may find the opportunity they need, we pray to the Lord: **R/...**

For our own personal needs that we should never falter but always look up with hope, we pray to the Lord: **R/...**

Leader: Father, we praise you for having led St. Joseph to serve your Son Jesus and his Mother so faithfully; help us to be faithful to our responsibilities and serve with love. We ask this through Jesus our Lord – Amen.

Pause: Hymn

We will now say the Litany of St. Joseph.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
Holy Joseph, pray for us.
Illustrious Son of David, pray for us.
Light of the Patriarchs, pray for us.
Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.
Chaste Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster-Father of the Son of God, pray for us.

Faithful Protector of Christ, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Joseph most just, pray for us.
Joseph most chaste, pray for us.
Joseph most prudent, pray for us.
Joseph most courageous, pray for us.
Joseph most obedient, pray for us.
Joseph most faithful, pray for us.
Mirror of patience, pray for us.
Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of working men and women, pray for us.
Ornament of the domestic life, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of the family, pray for us.
Consoler of the miserable, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Terror of demons, pray for us.
Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

V. He hath made him master of His house.
R. And ruler of all His possessions.

Let us pray. O God, who in Thy ineffable providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have him for our intercessor in Heaven, whom on earth we venerate as our most

Concluding: Thank you St. Joseph for these few moments we have spent adoring Jesus. Help us to keep our eyes focused on God our Father, so that we may praise and glorify him in all that we do.

Hymn: Great things happen.

Benediction as usual

HOLY HOUR FOR June 5th, 2015

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST (CORPUS CHRISTI)

Introduction:

This Sunday we will be celebrating the solemnity of Corpus Christi hence, let us prepare ourselves by spending this time before the Blessed Sacrament. The Lord unites us with himself through the Eucharist - through his body and blood commemorated on our altars whenever we participate in the Eucharist. He unites us with one another through the bond of being sons and daughters of the Father. He sends us into the whole world to bear witness, through faith, preparing for his triumphant coming again in glory.

In the month of June, traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart, we remember St. Margaret Alacoque who was chosen by Christ to arouse the Church to a realization of the love of God symbolized by the heart of Jesus.

Hymn: Jesus my Lord my God my all.

Please sit as we listen to a Reading from 1 Cor 11:23-26

Brothers and sisters:

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

For a few minutes let us close our eyes and ponder on the following:

How do I participate in the Most Holy Eucharist?

Does the Eucharist inspire me to be better witnesses to the World?

Hymn : Let there be Love shared among us.

Prayer of Intercession:

Leader: God our Father we have gathered here as one family free from division and strife. Trusting in your providence, as we place our petitions for peace before you .

Response will be : Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christians and all people of good will, may they never lose hope in the possibility of peace, we pray to the Lord: R/

For government leaders, may they hear and respond to their peoples' plea for peace and justice, we pray to the Lord: R/

For the young everywhere: may they grow in courage to seek the peace God offers the world, we pray to the Lord: R/

For those serving in the military, may the Lord guide them and protect them, we pray to the Lord: R/

For those who have died, especially those who have died in war, may the Lord accept them into his loving presence, we pray to the Lord: R/

Leader: Father, help us to be faithful to our responsibilities and serve you with love. We ask this through Jesus our Lord – Amen.

After a period of silent prayer:

Concluding:

We believe that you are a great God and worthy of praise. Help us to lead lives that reflect on that belief. Grant that we may seek always to do your will and delight in the work which makes your name and your love known and let there be peace throughout the world. We ask this prayer in the name of Jesus your Son . Amen

Hymn : Jesus you are my salvation.