

## Passion Sunday 2020

My beloved brothers and sisters, today, all Christians throughout the world are turning their hearts, minds and souls, once again, to the suffering and death of the Lord. Each of us is mindful of the terrible suffering of so many afflicted with this disease; and each of us is mindful of the suffering of isolation, which all of us are now experiencing to some degree in our own lives and families. (I am especially mindful during this time, of all of you who cannot come to the celebration of the Eucharist. Believe me, this causes my priestly heart great suffering. I lift each of you to the Lord, with His Body and Blood at each mass!) Today, we are reminded that the suffering of poor humanity does not end in the darkness of the grave; but in the Glorious light of the Resurrection. (All of us, especially during this time, are awaiting that triumphal crushing of the head of Satan and his power of death over mankind, when we will hear the joyful shout: "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. He is not here! He has Risen from the dead and goes before you...!")

God is all powerful, He could have chosen some other way to redeem us from our sins and the consequence of sin, which is death; but then, He would have remained a remote and far off deity. Rather, He has humbled Himself, by becoming a man like us in all things but sin, even to death, death upon a cross, stripping Himself of the dignity of His Divinity, and entering into all that it means to be human! The Passion of the Lord reminds us that we can place all of our faith, hope and trust in Him, because He has borne our very woundedness in Himself on the Cross! Indeed, He bore death upon Himself so that we might live!

There is an old Spanish ballad that says: "Tienemos tres heridas: a uno de vida, a uno de amor, y a uno del muerte!" It means: "All of us have three wounds: one of life, one of love and one of death..." We have all been wounded by life and as a result, we have all built up walls around our lives and hearts to keep from being wounded again! These walls also keep out God. God knows how to break down the walls which prevent us from entering the Divine Intimacy which He so desires for us and created us for! That is why He became a man like us in all things except sin; and it is why He entered into the most gruesome of suffering and death for

us! The Passion of Jesus is the ultimate Divine Promise: “I will always love you with the infinite capacity of my heart and life poured out for you!” God is always faithful to His promises for us!

During this terrible time, Jesus is knocking at the doors of our hearts; let Him in and transfigure you by tearing down the walls that keep us apart! Let Him draw you into His Divine Intimacy. Let Him pour out into you, an infinite ocean of Divine Love and Mercy. Let Him imprint upon your heart His Divine Image like Veronica. Let Him make of you a Divine Image of His Mercy for others, by extending His mercy and love to others!

Are there old resentments and un-forgiveness that you bear in your life? Tell Jesus: I will to forgive! Have you failed to be merciful in your life? Choose to be merciful now! Have you failed to be grateful for all that God has done for you? Choose now to be people of gratitude! Have you failed to do charity? Choose now to be Charitable! Have you isolated from others, (not just from the disease)? Choose to open your hearts to your brothers and sisters around you!

By doing these things, we not only lift the burden of Christ’s cross, but we extend His mercy into the world around us! Amen!