

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

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I ADORE YOU HOLY CROSS!

*His most holy Passion on the wood
of the cross merited justification
for us*

THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

Obedience makes us Church

NEWS FROM OUR HOUSES

*The Beginning of the Saint
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I ADORE YOU HOLY CROSS!

HIS MOST HOLY PASSION ON THE WOOD OF THE CROSS
MERITED JUSTIFICATION FOR US



When we honor or exalt the Cross, we Christians are recognizing Christ Himself (Second Council of Nicea). The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 617 says:

The Council of Trent emphasizes the unique character of Christ's sacrifice as "the source of eternal salvation" and teaches that "his most holy Passion on the wood of the cross merited justification for us." And the Church venerates his cross as she sings: "Hail, O Cross, our only hope."

With these first lines, we can see that devotion to the Holy Cross in the Church is of utmost importance since Jesus transformed an object of torture into an object of salvation. However, when did the cult of the Cross spread in the Church? Fundamentally, since the beginning of the Church, Christians have venerated the Holy Cross and it is for this reason that Saint Paul could say: "For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and a folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (1Cor 1:22-24).



But this cult developed especially thanks to the discovery of Saint Helena, which we commemorate every year with the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates two historical events.

The first is the discovery in 320 A.D. of the true Cross, of Calvary, and of the tomb of Christ. Saint Helena, mother of the emperor Constantine, discovered them under a temple build to the goddess Venus where they had been buried by the Romans. The second event that gives rise to the celebration of this feast is the dedication of a church in that place in the year 335 A.D. Today, that church, which has existed since then, is called the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and houses Calvary, the tomb of Jesus, and the cistern in which Saint Helena found the instruments of the Passion of Jesus, including the Cross. The date of this discovery, according to tradition, was May 3, 326 A.D.

By interviewing many locals, and with the help of the bishop of Jerusalem, Saint Macarius, she discovered the place and found the Holy Cross that the Jews had previously hidden.

According to the historian Rufinus, the identity of the Holy Cross was confirmed by a miraculous healing after Saint Macarius recited this prayer:

“O Lord, who through the passion of your only begotten Son on the Cross, you deigned to restore salvation to humanity, and who even now have inspired your servant Helena to seek the blessed wood to which the author of our salvation was nailed, clearly show us which, among the three crosses, was the one that was raised for Your glory. Distinguish it from those that only served for a common execution. Let this woman who is now dying return from the gates of death as soon as she is touched by the wood of salvation.”

The cross means both the suffering and the trophy of God himself: suffering, because on it He suffered a voluntary death; and the trophy, because in it the devil was mortally wounded and, with him, death was defeated.

The Cross seen from the outside is a symbol of pain and suffering, but its real meaning is a symbol of love and hope. The Cross is also called the glory and exaltation of Christ. It is the overflowing chalice of which the psalm speaks, and the culmination of all the torments that Christ suffered for us.

Thus we can realize the capital importance of devotion to the Holy Cross and how the discovery of the relics of the Passion has been possible. However, we must not forget that each of us has a cross to carry and that we are not alone on this path, Jesus shows us the way: “Then Jesus said to his disciples: ‘If anyone wants to come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me’ (Mt 16:24).





"If we are truly full of love for others, as our vocation asks of us, we must be able at all times to deprive ourselves of something for others."



FATHER GIOVANNI SALERNO

THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

Obedience makes us Church

There are many who, in our day and in the Church itself, experience fear, distrust or, at least, reservation in the face of obedience. But we must remain firm on the solid doctrine that Jesus has delivered to his Apostles, and to Peter in particular, as their head:

"You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church" (Mt. 16:18).

Jesus Christ created the Church and we know that he founded it in the best way. He, knowing Peter's rudeness, his faults and deficiencies, did not hesitate to establish him as head of the other Apostles. Those who today avoid obedience fear holiness. In short, they know that being a true Christian costs. They know that it is a serious demand and they shy away from the commitment to accept Christ in their lives. Within each fraternity of the Movement, this aspect of the value of obedience to those responsible for each of them is fundamental.

And it may happen that for this reason we lose friends, that people hate us and become angry with us. We do not have to fear if for this same reason we lose even important economic aid destined for the poor of the Third World.



All this will happen to us. But the important thing is to remain firm in the Lord, sure that He will help us. Nothing I'm telling you is anything new, because He Himself preached it to us:

«If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I choose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you; If they kept my word, they will also keep yours" (Jn 15:18-20).

For the rest, based on my own personal experience, I tell you that until today mercy and Divine Providence have always compensated us beyond all proportion and measure. And each of you who have believed in this idea and have persevered in this spirit of holiness in obedience is the most evident proof of all this. Many of you, couples with children, young people, priests, seminarians from different nations, with different cultures and languages, also those who make up the Movement from any of its branches, on several occasions have proclaimed: "Father, we put ourselves at the complete disposal of the Servants of the Poor of the Third World and we want to live in silence, in a spirit of total obedience."

To be continued...

Father Giovanni Salerno



"Those who today avoid obedience fear holiness; they know that being a true Christian is difficult."

NEWS FROM OUR HOUSES

The Beginning of the Saint John Bosco Oratory

One of the great activities that St. John Bosco promoted in Valdocco was the oratory. The oratory was an activity reserved for homeless children who came from the street. It was a place where the children played, had fun, spent time, and practiced music, since Don Bosco said, "An oratory without music is like a body without a soul."

That is why we have the great joy of announcing the beginning of the oratory for this year 2024. It is open to children from third through ninth grade. There they receive breakfast and lunch, play, participate in Holy Mass which is the pillar of the oratory, and receive catechism. It is a great satisfaction for us to see that these children are having healthy fun instead of wasting time on other things that would lead them down the road to perdition. As the great educator of youth said, "let them do what they want, as long as they do not sin."



Adoption of two boys from our Saint Tarcisus Home

Dear friends, as you know, one of our main tasks is the shelter and education of abandoned children following the example of Saint John Bosco in the preventive method which we have taken as our example to follow.

A fundamental right of children is to live in a family where they are loved. In recent months, two children sheltered in the Saint Tarcisus Home were adopted. In one case, it was the culmination of years of fighting for the oldest child in our house, who had been with us for more than five years, to be adopted by a European couple. The second child was adopted along with his older sister, who lived in the Saint Teresa de Jesus Home.

Thanks to your constant and fervent prayers, these adoptions were made possible.





S.O.S

TO YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are a young person or a married couple, or if you desire to form a support group in your country or to be an oblate, God is calling you. Don't ignore the call and say "yes" to Christ.

contact us!



WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

THE MOST IMPORTANT HELP FOR THE MISSIONARIES IS YOUR PRAYERS

REGISTER NOW



YOU MAY ALSO HELP US MATERIALLY

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