

Good Friday, Cycle C: April 2nd, 2010

On this solemn and somber evening, there is so much that could be said. So many feelings that could be expressed as you listened to the story that was just proclaimed to us. That story will touch each of us differently, based upon what we have experienced in our lives, as well as, where we are spiritually and emotionally at this particular moment in time.

But for me, it all comes down to something that is simple and yet so very profound: God loves us. That's it! Our God loves us, not sometimes, but always. Not half-heartedly, but completely and for all eternity.

Our God loved us so much that he died for us! He paid the ultimate price for each of us, because he believed that we were worth it. He died not for the greatest of saints, but also for the most egregious sinners. And, contemplating that fact, upon this occasion, just leaves us flabbergasted; as well it should from a human perspective. But, from God's point of view, it made perfect sense for that was the way that He chose to heal a broken world.

But there is a certain sorrow attached to this day, perhaps there is even emptiness inside each of us. An emptiness that is made manifest as we come to the realization that Jesus made his journey to the cross for each one of us. He also made this journey by himself as many of his disciples fled and let him all alone to suffer and die for them, and for us.

But, alongside all the pain, suffering, sorrow and disappointment of this day, there are seeds of hope and peace. Seeds that will burst forth in glory in just a couple of days, when, our sorrow will turn to joy; our doubts will give way to hope.

This evening, let's bring everything--- our faults, sins, strengths, gifts, pain and suffering along with our joy and triumphs--- and place them at the foot of the cross. Let's offer all that we are, including our very selves and turn it all over to God. Let us unite ourselves with our Lord as he reaches out his arms on the cross for our salvation,

knowing that his love will transform us into something beautiful, meaningful and holy.

Sure, today was a day of sorrow, pain and disappointment in one sense, but it was also the beginning of a joy and peace that only our God could give, and why do I say that, because God loves us. It's as simple as that and I urge you to keep that thought on your mind as you come forth to venerate the cross this evening.