

Dear Friends,

Today is Good Friday, the day of Jesus' death on the cross. Some may think that it is odd that we would call the day He died "Good", but it was the tremendous act of love of Jesus offering Himself upon the cross that makes possible our salvation. That's not just Good, that's great.

Having said that, however, this is not a day of celebration. It is a day of remembrance, reflection, and prayer. I remember growing up my mom wouldn't allow the TV or the radio to be on between the hours of Noon and 3:00, the hours that Jesus hung on the cross for us. We didn't have to be "saying" prayers the whole time, but whatever we were doing was to be done in quiet so we could reflect upon His Sacrifice. I would suggest that for all of us today. There is a simple prayer that I often use: "Hail, O Cross, our only hope". This helps me to focus on the fact that Jesus told us that if we wish to follow Him, then each day we must pick up our own cross. The cross is, indeed, our hope and our destiny. Without the cross there is no salvation! This year a heavy cross has been given to all of us. We can flee from that cross or we can pick it up and follow in Jesus' footsteps; footsteps that lead to Calvary but ultimately to the empty tomb.

As we walk with Jesus today, may we not walk empty-handed.

Let us support and encourage each other in the presence of the cross. Fr. Caruso