**Feast of Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**

Looking back to the OT time, what **a curious sign God gives the Israelites in the desert: the very cause of their suffering, the serpent lifted on a pole, S**omehow, their salivation rested in God taking the instrument of their demise in a mysterious change, working it for their restoration.

**Likewise in the fullness of time, God also sends his Son**. Christ does not save us by welding earthly power, but by taking the form of a slave..he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. **This is the profound mystery of the salvation wrought by Christ**. Sin was the source of all human suffering and misery. Worse than the sting of the saraph serpents, **sin not only brought physical death into the world but also the eternal spiritual death of separation from God**. In response to our sin, God took on a human nature and although he never sinned himself, he experienced sin so intimately during his passion that St. Paul writes of Christ\_2 Cor: 5:21), ***“For our sake he made him to be sin***”. Then, having “**become sin**”, Jesus is lifted on the cross like the Saraph mounted on the pole.

**Gazing at the innocent crucified Christ, we must acknowledge the consequences of our sin**. But we also see in him, Gods’ infinite love for us. We see Jesus’ intention to ‘**undo” Adams’** **sin** of disobedience by his perfect obedience to His father. We see his desire to forgive us and heal us. **This is why, the Cross, a horrible instrument of suffering and death, can be celebrated and Today we celebrate** the **“Feast of the exaltation or the triumph of the Cross.”** This is why, again, in our Churches, we use crucifixes depicting Jesus instead of simple crosses. We are to look at Christ, our salivation, mounted on the pole of the Cross so we might remain in sorrow because of the gravity of our sins. **The contrition we experience from sin should stimulate us to seek Gods’ forgiveness**- and this in turn, is what will heal us. Just as a relationship is restored and when fault is acknowledged and pardon is asked, given, and received, so our contrition and Gods’ forgiveness restore our relationship with him. And this relationship is the life of our human souls.

We revere the Cross not because it is an historical artifact like an extinct volcano that reminds us seismic events centuries ago. **The Cross is a living spiritual source of salvation and grace for every person on earth today who turns to it**. When we look at the sin and evil around us, do we see only corruption or do we see humanity groaning for a redeemer and savior. That’s’ what Jesus is. The suffering of Jesus showed that He experienced the evil of our world and remained obedient to the father. That **is the real Triumph of His Cro**ss. Just as Christopher Columbus drive the Cross into the ground when landed and claimed it for Spain, Jesus used His Cross to claim the human race once again for God.

**When we embrace the Cross of Christ, the Crosses in our life become not obstacles to faith but places to meet and embrace the Lord.** As Jesus tells Nicodemus in Todays’ Gospel, ***“so must the Son of man be lifted up, so everyone who believes in him may have eternal life”.*** We prepare for eternity now by finding our life in Jesus Christ and the healing he offers. **Let us, then lift high the Cross!. In it is our Hope!.** For, through the Cross, God has worked out our salvation. Let us lift our eyes and welcome the salvation Christ brings.