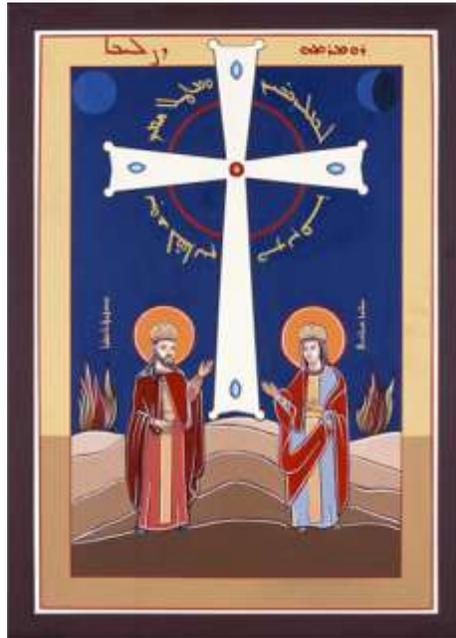


Holy Cross Feast Day



Happy Holy Cross Feast Day

The Cross with Jesus becomes a sign of glory, not of shame.

Jesus knew that he was going to die. Why? Because when you stand for the truth you realize what your destiny is going to be.

“Father, save me from this hour? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.”

We as humans are so good at compromising and forsaking the truth. We are experts in protecting our interests, in putting the blame on others by avoiding accepting the responsibility of our wrongdoings.

Jesus teaches us how to be real men and women, how to save others - even the ones who are not worthy - how to take the bullet. He took responsibility for all our sins and offenses and despite all that, we are still struggling in accepting Him as our savior; it is not enough for us what we did to him, we need more people to sacrifice and to kill.

Jesus' teaching is crystal clear: "Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

We live our life always at the expense of others. The opposite is what Jesus did; He paid all our expenses by himself. He paid our debts on the Cross. We pay them in the bank only! We love ourselves so dearly, to the point we forget others. We love our desires, our will, body. Love of who we are is great, but not at the expense of others.

In his letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul reminds us what is written in the holy Bible: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

I think this verse is totally contrary to what the science calls us for. Follow only your reason, which is logical and makes sense.

Yes, it is necessary to have common sense. To analyze and understand, but this should not take us away from God.

God created everything for us to believe in his power, what we are doing is replacing him by other powers! Thinking that we have dominion over his creation, and therefore over Him. It is like a father who gave inheritance to his son and once this son got it, threw away his father and enjoyed the gift. This happens with us in our families, how will it not happen toward God?

A similar parable is given also from John's passage. Jesus said: "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."

The seeds produced from this one seed planted should not forget from where they come.

We are created in God's image, as these wheats are created in one kernel of wheat. If we deny who we are, we lose our purpose and taste.

Therefore, the creation tells us a lot. From here we understand what Saint Paul said in his first letter to the Corinthians:

“For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.”

So, God sent Jesus and He was crucified, which is foolish to believe in, to save the believers.

Don't misunderstand the verse, it is not choosing between two things, it is about having the one without forgetting the other.

It is totally wrong to think of it as:

The foolishness of the cross is accepted by the foolish and refused by the wise, however the wisdom of this world is accepted by the intelligent and refused by the foolish.

Believers are those who don't rely on their own wisdom and power ONLY, but on God's power as well.

Jesus wants to save both the wise and the foolish. Jesus didn't come for a specific category, Jews or gentiles, black or white, rich or poor... He came for all. The Cross abolishes racism. We need to bring the Cross again to the US.

He is telling us don't rely on your wisdom only, on your money, your intelligence, career, diplomas, properties and wealth, beauty and shape.

Because all of that is not a priority; what is essential is who are you serving?

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

What you follow tells you: who you serve.

Who you serve tells you: where you will be?

And where you will be tells you: what your honor is going to be?

The Cross is not a sign only, it is a lifestyle.

The Cross is not from gold that costs only money, it is from blood that costs life.

The Cross is not fixed in the Calvary hill only in Jerusalem, it is in each place where there is injustice.

The Cross is not where Jesus was one time in the past only, it is where he still is each time we sin and reject God's love.

The Cross teaches us that God can use a piece of wood to save the whole World. And if a piece of wood was used to do all of that, what about me and you?

The Cross teaches us that whatever evil is used against us to kill us, the Cross will turn it to become a source of new life. With Jesus is a piece of wood, with us it can be: gossip, abuse, being marginalized, persecuted, bullied...

The Cross teaches us that after God fails to team up with us humans, He embraces a piece of wood that becomes a sign that talks of his glory more than people do. That witnesses to who He truly is more than we do.

Blessed are you Holy Cross - you showed us in your foolishness the wisdom of God. And you showed us in our wisdom how foolish we are.

Happy to be foolish for YOU!

Rev. Father Rami Razzouk