

**March 30, 2018**

**Triduum Continues - Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**

**Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12**

**Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9**

**John 18:1-19:42**

Living as we do within the world of recordable history we are able to assemble real-time accurate recreations and understandings of how things have transpired. By salvaging the 'black boxes' from plane crashes we can better understand what went wrong; by collecting assorted private videos taken from different perspectives we can gain fuller observance and understanding of a crime, a natural disaster, an event, without editorial comment or unintentional second guessing. Not having the benefit of cameras or black boxes during the time of Jesus, each year we, at great length, recall the story of his crucifixion, death and burial. Having been reminded of his personal connections with his disciples from last night's Holy Thursday washing of feet and institution of Eucharist, tonight we wrestle with Jesus' personal choice to allow himself to be humiliated, demeaned, tortured and killed...all in full view of his friends and mother. He who raised others from the dead, could surely have prevented his own demise. He who once walked through unruly crowds would not have feared an angry Jewish mob. When challenged by Pilate (in the Gospel of Matthew), Jesus himself admitted that his Father would have sent him more than 12 legions of angels if he had requested their assistance. So, having all the power in the universe, Jesus ALLOWS himself to die a most humiliating death at the very hands of those he loves. Like a parent who endures the wrathful rants of a child or distraught teen - 'I HATE YOU -; through the death of Jesus, God has demonstrated his divine patience with our rants, sins and efforts to force God to abandon us. Knowing what we now know regarding the Resurrection (still to come on Sunday) we are able to appreciate the Crucifixion of Jesus in the light of God allowing us to give it our best shot to drive him from us....and yet he continues to love us and dwell among us. TODAY is the crucial day of our salvation....today is the remembered story by which God gives us complete freedom to run amok...but won't stop loving us. What have been the challenges to love those who have hurt you? What crosses have you carried and died upon due to your relationships? How easy would it have been to abandon those who scorned your friendship and love? How have you been enriched or debilitated by your choice to embrace the Cross of loving people?

Thank you for sharing Day Two of Triduum with our Santa Clara Community. Tomorrow, Saturday, is a day of waiting, a day of coming to terms with what we, humanity, did today. The Vigil conclusion to Triduum begins at 7pm tomorrow night, followed by a festive celebration in honor of our Candidates and Catechumens about to be fully welcomed into our faith. You are reminded again that there are no Confessions, nor 5pm Mass, tomorrow. If you will not be joining us at the Vigil, our Easter Sunday Masses are the usual 8am, 10am and 12noon....but with much greater crowds, please arrive early....and remember, you are loved. FKB