



Signs of Faith

The Presence that sustains us
The Offering that liberates us
The Silence that opens the door to life

Here they are—the most significant days of our Faith! Are we ready to prevent ourselves from reducing them yet again to the mere celebration of rites? We should live them wholeheartedly and intensively so as to ensure that our life is always charged with hope, our thoughts and actions motivated by charity, and our will illuminated by faith. The days of the Easter Triduum are rich in *signs of faith* that allow us to put into practice what St. Paul said to the Colossians: “So then, as you received Jesus as Lord and Christ, now live your lives in him, be rooted in him and built up on him, held firm by the faith you have been taught, and overflowing with thanksgiving. Make sure that no one captivates you with the empty lure of a ‘philosophy’ of the kind that human beings hand on, based on the principles of this world and not on Christ” (Col. 2:6-8).

On Holy Thursday, we focus on the *Presence* that sustains us. To celebrate the memory of the institution of the Eucharist means to place our whole life at the service of this divine Presence. To recognize this Presence means to welcome the Gift we have received and allow him to shine in us. It means being ready to live in a spirit of self-offering and acceptance of others, making the effort to build genuine relationships founded on the service of charity in truth. Only an enduring relationship with this supportive, enlightening, comforting and fortifying Presence will enable us to view every moment of our existence as an opportunity to “do the will of the Father.” To live in this Presence means changing our way of thinking. It means building up others in the truth. It means learning how to live charitably. This is Holy Thursday!

On Good Friday we celebrate the memory of the Offering that liberates us. The apostle Peter says very clearly: “You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish” (1 Pt. 1:18-19). How deeply we yearn for freedom! How desperately we want to be ransomed from our mediocre lives! How much time and effort we expend striving to attain a new position in life! Christ gave us all this and more when he offered himself to us and for us on the throne of the cross, lifting us from slavery to freedom. But we can understand and accept this only if we are able to *look beyond*: beyond the logic of instant gratification; beyond the rule of *carpe diem*; beyond the stranglehold of nihilism. The cross of Christ is our hope and our rule of life—the offering that liberates our heart, enabling it to love boundlessly.

On Holy Saturday, we celebrate the *silence* that opens the door to new life: not the silence of death, of an existential emptiness that triggers desperation, but the silence of a Love that waits to be recognized and welcomed by us so as to broaden our horizons and gives birth to new life. On this day, we should participate in the Lover’s eloquent communication with his beloved by silencing everything in us that distracts us from this interior dialogue, so as to transform it into a silence that expands our heart and regenerates us by healing our every wound and grief.

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