

Formation Lesson 13- Jesus Rejected: The Meaning of the Cross

Objective: To help the candidates confront and deal with the reality of death in positive way: to help them see that accepting death is key to fullness of life. To explore with the candidates their understanding of Jesus' death and its meaning. To give them a new and more mature understanding of the Stations of the Cross

CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS AS SACRIFICE

Jesus' sacrificial death was unique that it consisted of a "once for all atonement" (Hebrews 10:10) that effectively brought about the forgiveness of human sin. In offering himself on the cross Christ served as both priest and sacrifice. THE PERFECT SACRIFICE.

CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS AS FORGIVENESS

The cross of Christ is God's way of dealing finally and fully with the problem of human sin. Jesus' atonement took away sin (John 1:29) and brought about full access to God's pardon and remission from all transgressions. MERCIFUL & FORGIVING GOD

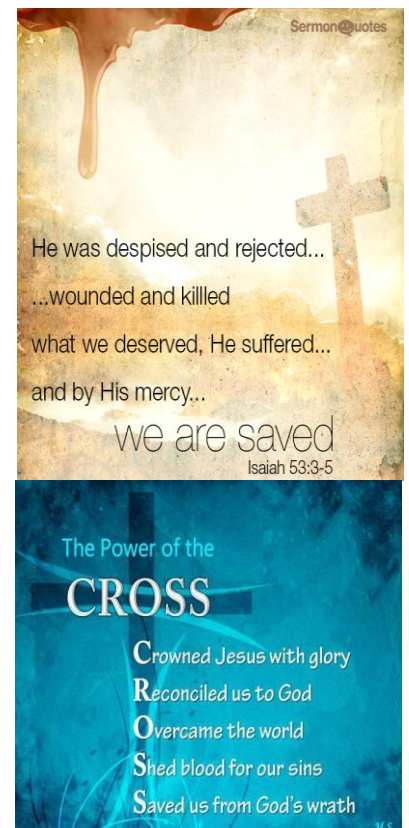
CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS AS LOVE

Jesus' death on the cross stands as evidence of God's love for human beings. The Father sends his Son into the world to die in the place of sinners (John 3:16). The Savior accepts humiliation, pain, death, and, finally, separation from the Father to accomplish redemption. WHAT A LOVING GOD WE SERVE

CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS AS VICTORY

Jesus won the ultimate victory. The Lord's death & resurrection defeated worldly powers as sin, death, and the devil. Christians celebrate their "Victory upon the Earth," through the cross of the Lord and Savior. OUR REDEEMER & SAVIOUR

- ❖ Jesus' death is an inspiration to all – we find hope in Him.
- ❖ Jesus' death and resurrection is the key to our salvation.
- ❖ Jesus' was a very special person who proclaimed Love for God and Love for neighbor.
- ❖ Jesus was irresistible, yet His death shocked everyone.
- ❖ St Paul says, "if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).
- ❖ We honor the wood of the Cross because it is the instrument of our salvation.
- ❖ The salvation revealed to us by the Cross is that God is who God has always been: merciful, gracious, patient, loving, and faithful
- ❖ On the Cross our Savior died to save us.
- ❖ It is an act of Faith. We look beyond the Cross to the Resurrection.
- ❖ The Cross is our symbol of victory not defeat. The Cross is our power. The Cross stands for life. Cross means love. Christ is the Victor, the Champion, the Winner. He obtained a great victory over death for us. Now the victory is ours.



Why do we do the Stations of the Cross?

The Stations of the cross offer a devotional way for Catholics to reflect step by step on the suffering, death, and burial of Christ.

How many Stations of the Cross are there and what does it symbolize?

14 Stations. Each station commemorates an event of Jesus' journey from the high priest's courtyard in Jerusalem where he was condemned, to Calvary, where he died, and the garden where he was buried.

The 14 stations were based on the private prayer tradition of the people and on recorded events in the Gospels.

The Events of the Paschal Mystery

The Catholic Church teaches that human beings are saved from sin by the whole work of Jesus Christ on earth, and especially by the Paschal Mystery. 'Paschal' means 'Passover' which is the Jewish celebration of the Israelites being led to freedom by Moses in Egypt. 'Mystery' means a religious truth with infinite meaning.

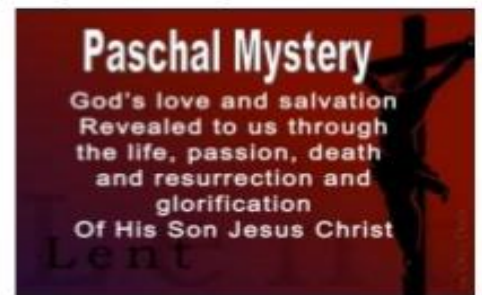
Paschal Mystery is:

Passion (Jesus' suffering on the cross)
Death (Jesus being crucified)
Resurrection (Jesus coming back to life)
Ascension (going up 'ascending' to the right hand of the Father i.e. God)

Paschal Mystery is one of the central concepts of Catholic faith relating to the history of salvation. Its main subject is the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ - the work God the Father sent his Son to accomplish on earth.

Catechism of the Catholic Church-
(Paschal Mystery)
opened the way to heaven for humanity
CCC

Importance today:
1)Redemption
2)resurrection = hope of resurrection 3)give his life for ransom for many



The Way of the Cross – Activity Book - Page 39

- Meditate on the six stations or stands of the cross and discover who stood with Jesus and what kind of faith they brought as they took their stand with him, beginning with the first Palm Sunday and reaching to the day of his Resurrection, the first Easter.