

Good Friday – 2017
04/14/17

What was it that led Jesus to the cross? We always hear that it was His love for us and for the Father that brought about the crucifixion. But wasn't there also a lot of hate in place on the part of the Jewish authorities? We always hear that it was His trust in the Father's plan that brought about the crucifixion. But wasn't it also fear on the part of the Jewish authorities? Seems to me that Jesus was once again the embodiment of how we're supposed to act as His followers and that sometimes we don't do that so well.

Last night, we were reminded of the love Jesus has for each of us as we washed each other's feet. It was a simple but powerful act for those with the courage to take part in it. Today, we are called to walk a hard road with Jesus. The worst of Jesus' suffering may not have been the physical torture He endured but His knowledge that He was abandoned by many of His closest friends. He had showed His love by washing their feet and yet they still fled. Like Jesus, most of the hurts in our lives are experienced through our relationships, often with those we love the most.

In a few moments all of us will have a chance to venerate the cross, the symbol of our freedom and another reminder of Jesus' love for us. Although it may seem a strange symbol, and certainly is from an outsider's viewpoint, it nonetheless is what we glory in. Were it not for the death of Jesus on the cross, we wouldn't be here today celebrating this cruel instrument of Roman torture. And we celebrate it because of love and trust.

As you come forward for the veneration, might I suggest you meditate on what it means for us and for our salvation. Might I suggest you consider someone you hate or fear. And might I then suggest you leave that hate and fear at the cross where it belongs and return filled with the love and trust of Jesus.