

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

I AM GOING talk to you now about the public crosses, and I am going to give you the reason for their number, for the blessings which flow from them, and for the great honor which the Church pays them. If our interior crosses are so numerous, and if the public crosses, these images of that Cross on which our God died, are also so numerous, it is that we may have always present in our thoughts the reminder that we are the children of a crucified God.

We need not be surprised, my dear brethren, at the honor which the Church pays to this holy wood, which obtains for us so many graces and so many benefits. We see that the Church makes the Sign of the Cross in all her ceremonies, in the administration of all the Sacraments. Why is that? My friends, this is why. It is because all our prayers and all

the Sacraments draw from the Cross their power and their virtue. During the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the greatest, the most solemn and the most sublime of all those actions which can glorify God, the priest makes the Sign of the Cross over and over again. God desires that we may never lose the memory of it as the surest means of our salvation and the most formidable instrument for repelling the Devil. He has created us in the form of a cross so that every man might be the image of this cross upon which Jesus Christ died to save us. See how eager the Church is to increase their number? She urges them as a special embellishment on our churches and on all altars; she places them in the most public places.

*Commentary from a homily by the Curé d'Ars,
St. Jean-Marie Baptiste Vianney (1786-1859)*



Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form Votive Mass of the Holy Cross

(after Pentecost and before Septuagesima)



INTROIT (Gal. 6. 14)

NOS AUTEM GLORIARI oportet in Cruce Domini nostri Jesu Christi: in quo est salus, vita, et resurrectio nostra: per quem salvati et liberati sumus. *Psalm.* Deus misereatur nostri et benedicat nobis: illuminet vultum suum super nos, et misereatur nostri. *V.* Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper, et in secula seculorum. *R.* Amen. — Nos autem gloriari ...

BUT it behooves us to glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ: in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection: by whom we are saved, and delivered. *Ps. 66. 2.* May God have mercy on us and bless us: may He cause the light of His countenance to shine upon us, and may He have mercy on us. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — But it behooves us ...

COLLECT

O GOD, Who by the precious Blood of Thine only-begotten Son, wast pleased to hallow the standard of the lifegiving Cross: grant, we beseech Thee, that those who rejoice in paying honor to that same holy Cross, may likewise everywhere enjoy Thy protection. Through the same Jesus Christ ...

DEUS, qui unigéniti Filii tui pretiósio Sáanguine, vivificáre Crucis vexilium sanctificáre voluisti: concéde, quæsumus; eos qui ejúdem sanctæ Crucis gaudent honóre, tua quoque ubique protectióne guadére. Per eúndem Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

EPISTLE

From the Letter of Blessed Paul the Apostle to the Philippians, 2. 8-11.

BRETHREN: Christ became for us obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. For which cause God also hath exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above all names: that in the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father.

FRATRES: Christus factus est pro nobis obédiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. Propter quod et Deus exaltávit illum: et donávit illi nomen, quod est super omne nomen: (*hic genuflectitur*) ut in nómine Jesu omne genu flectátur, cœlestium, terréstrium et infernórum: et omnis lingua confiteátur, quia Dóminus Jesus Christus in glóriá est Dei Patris.

GRADUAL (Phil. 2. 8-9)

CHRIST BECAME obedient for us unto death: even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath exalted Him, and hath given Him a name which is above every name. **Alleluia, alleluia.** Sweet the wood, sweet the nails, sweet the load that hangs on thee: thou only wast worthy to bear the King and Lord of heaven. Alleluia.

CHRISTUS factus est pro nobis obédiens usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis. *Ÿ.* Propter quod et Deus exaltávit illum, et dedit illi nomen quod est super omne nomen.

Allelúia, allelúia. *Ÿ.* Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dúlcia ferens póndera: quæ sola fuísti digna sustinére Regem cœlórum et Dóminum. Allelúia.

GOSPEL

Continuation of the holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 20. 17-19.

AT THAT TIME: Jesus took the twelve disciples apart and said to them: Behold we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man shall be betrayed to the chief priests and the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified, and the third day He shall rise again.

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Assúmpsit Jesus duodécim discípulos secréto, et ait illis: Ecce, ascéndimus Jerosólymam, et Fílius hóminis tradétur princípibus sacerdotum, et scribis, et condemnábunt eum morte, et tradent eum géntibus ad illudéndum, et flagellándum, et crucifigéndum, et tértia die resúrget.

OFFERTORY

PRÓTEGE, Dómine, plebem tuam per signum sanctæ Crucis ab insídiis inimicórum ómnium: ut tibi gratam exhibeámus servitútem, et acceptábile fiat sacrificium nostrum.

BY the sign of the holy Cross, O Lord, protect Thy people from the wiles of all our enemies, that we may be able to do Thee worthy service, and that our sacrifice may be well-pleasing in Thy sight.

SECRET

HÆC OBLATIO, Dómine, quæsumus, ab ómnibus nos purget offénsis: quæ in ara Crucis etiam totiús mundi tulit offénsam. Per eúndem Dóminum Jesum Christum Filium tuum...

MAY THIS OFFERING, O Lord, we beseech Thee, purify us from all our sins, even as on the altar of the Cross, it took away the sins of the whole world. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord ...

PREFACE OF THE HOLY CROSS

VERE dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus. Qui salútem humáni géneris in ligno Crucis constituísti: ut unde mors oriebátur, inde vita resúrgeret: et qui in ligno vincébat, in ligno quoque vincerétur, per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Angeli, adorant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cœli, cœlórumque Virtútes, ac beáta Séraphim, sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confesióne dicétes: — *Sanctus.*

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: Who didst establish the salvation of mankind on the tree of the Cross: that whence death rose, thence also life might arise again, and that he who overcame by a tree, by a tree also might be overcome: through Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The heavens and the hosts of heaven with blessed Seraphim unite, exult, and celebrate. And we entreat that Thou wouldst bid our voices too be heard with theirs, singing with lowly praise: — *Sanctus.*

COMMUNION

PER signum Crucis de inimicis nostris libera nos, Deus noster.

BY THE SIGN of the Cross, deliver us from our enemies, O Thou our God.

POSTCOMMUNION

ADÉSTO nobis, Dómine Deus noster: et quos sanctæ Crucis laetári facis honóre, ejus quoque perpétuis defénde subsidiis. Per Dóminum nostrum ...

STAND BY US, O Lord our God, and do Thou, who makest us rejoice in honor of the holy Cross, defend us evermore by its help. Through our Lord Jesus Christ ...