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Jesus' Loving Example

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

What does Jesus as Priest show us?

How we should act and how we should offer sacrifice to God to show love for God and others. He also shows us that we should forgive others as He forgives us.

Why did God the Son become man?

God the Son became man to teach us who we are and to show us how we should act as images of God. He became man to return the Father's love and to help us to return God's love.

Jesus came to this earth to show us and to guarantee to us God's love. He came to love us and to be loved. Let yourselves be loved by Christ!

POPE JOHN PAUL II

Vocabulary

priest: one who offers sacrifices to God to show love for God and others.

to will: to choose.

self-discipline: control of one's emotions, desires, or actions by one's own will.

account: a detailed list of what one owes.

Jesus as Priest

Because Adam and Eve sinned, they wounded their abilities to think and to choose. They did not always act as images of God. They lost grace, and they were not able to return God's love. God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior. Jesus, God the Son, is our Savior. Only Jesus could make up for original sin and all other sins. Only Jesus could repair our relationship with God, because only Jesus is both God and man.

Jesus came to teach us who we are and show us how we should act as images of God. He came to return the Father's love and to help us to return God's love.

A priest is one who offers sacrifices to God to show love for God and others. Jesus as Priest shows us, by His example, how we should act. He shows us how we should offer ourselves in sacrifice to show love for God and others. Jesus also shows us that we should forgive others as He forgives us.



Ordained priests are men who have answered God's call and have chosen to offer their lives to God and to act as helpers to the bishop. Ordained priests serve our Church communities. They celebrate Eucharist and some of the other sacraments and teach us about God.

Jesus' Sacrifice of Love

LATE in the evening, after the Last Supper, Jesus was arrested by soldiers and others. The soldiers made fun of Jesus. They whipped Him many times, covering His back with bleeding wounds. The soldiers made a crown out of thorns and put it on Jesus' head. Then Pontius Pilate gave the order to have Jesus crucified.

Jesus was given a Cross. He had to carry this Cross to a place called Golgotha, which is just outside the city of Jerusalem. This walk must have been very hard for Jesus. The soldiers made a man, Simon the Cyrenian, help carry the Cross to Golgotha.

When they arrived at Golgotha, the soldiers nailed Jesus to the Cross. Pilate had a sign made that said, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews". This sign was put on the Cross above Jesus' head.

Two thieves were also crucified with Jesus—one on His right, and the other on His left.

There was a crowd of people gathered at the place of crucifixion. Some of the people were friends of Jesus, who believed in Him. Other people were not friends of Jesus. They made fun of Him, saying, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Messiah of God." Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

One of the thieves cried out to Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." This thief was not sorry for the crime he had committed.

The other thief knew that what he had done was wrong. This good thief was sorry for what he had done. The good thief scolded the other thief. He reminded him that they were receiving the just punishment for their crimes, but that Jesus had done nothing wrong.

Then the good thief looked at Jesus and said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus then promised the good thief that he would be with Him in heaven.

Mary, Jesus' Mother, and some friends of Jesus stood near the Cross. John, one of the Apostles, was also there. Jesus saw them standing there.

Jesus said to His Mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then Jesus spoke to John, "Behold, your mother." From then on, John cared for Mary.

Around twelve o'clock in the afternoon, darkness came over the land. At about three o'clock, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

One of the onlookers soaked a sponge in some wine and, putting it on a stick, gave Jesus a drink. After tasting the wine, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." After Jesus said these words, He died.

—based on Matthew 27:51–66; Luke 23:26–47; John 19:1–30