

Wednesday September 14 we celebrated “The Exaltation of the Cross. A very simple thought for why it is such an amazing image for me.

Only God can take an Early Roman Symbol of terror and death and turn it into a sign of Hope and Love.

As I told our IOP School Students:

-Roman Crucifixion was meant to scare people / To get them to follow the rules.

-Roman Crucifixion was for Criminals.

-Jesus was not a criminal / He was Innocent / Yet, by being nailed to the Holy Cross / Our future Sins can be washed away through Baptism and Repentance.

-The Cross Transforms hate to love

-Should remind us of God’s forgiveness / mercy.

-By the Cross Jesus defeats death; gives us the possibility to live forever / Eternity.

-Jesus says to Fr. / Let me take the cross / Do this in Sacrificial Love for my future body of believers.

-When you go into a Catholic Church and look up at the Cross - Jesus is saying to you / I did this for you / I love You / Come into my arms and let me give you Life.

On Thursday, September 15 the Church celebrates “Our Lady of Sorrows / And in the month of September The Holy Church Reflects on “The 7 Sorrows of Mary. On this day our readings say that Jesus, from the Cross, says to John: “Behold your mother.” Thus, from that day John took Mary into his home to care for her as his mother / Mary becomes the mother of the Church (Jesus’ followers and the body of those who believe in Him in Faith).

As a teaser below is one of my penances in the Confessional during the month of September. And more to come on how to pray the 7 Sorrows of Mary / There are pamphlets in my Confessional and in the Church / So Stay Tuned.

THE 7 SORROWS OF MARY

Spend 5 minutes focusing on one of the Seven Sorrows.

Then thank Jesus and His mother for their love for you and enduring these 7 sorrows for your salvation.

1) The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)

Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign

that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul, too.

- 2) The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)**
- 3) The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)**
- 4) The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)**
- 5) The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)**
- 6) Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)**
- 7) Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)**

The promises for Meditation on the 7 Sorrows

- 1) “I will grant peace to their families.”**
- 2) “They will be enlightened about the divine Mysteries.”**
- 3) “I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work.”**
- 4) “I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.”**
- 5) “I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives.”**
- 6) “I will visibly help them at the moment of their death—they will see the face of their mother.”**
- 7) “I have obtained this grace from my divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy.”**