



ST. JOHN PAUL II LITURGICAL CENTER UPDATE

On September 14, we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross and this year it falls on Sunday. Since the liturgical calendar feasts of the Lord have precedence over the Sundays in Ordinary Time, this Feast will replace the Sunday liturgy.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross has its roots in the discovery in 320 AD of the True Cross, of Calvary, and of the tomb of Christ by St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, which Romans buried under the second-century Temple of Aphrodite; 2) the dedication on September 13, 335, of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher, built on the site of Mount Calvary. The Eastern Churches, Catholics and Orthodox, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication.

St. John Paul II on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross in his homily delivered in 1984, in Halifax, Canada, made the following reflection on the Cross:

IN THE WORDS OF ST. JOHN PAUL II

Why are the Cross and the Crucified One the doorway to eternal life? Because in him - Christ crucified - is manifested to the full the love of God for the world, for man.

In the same conversation with Nicodemus Christ says: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved" (Jo. 3, 16-17).

The salvific lifting up of the Son of God on the Cross has its eternal source in love. This is the love of the Father that sends the Son; he gives his Son for the salvation of the world. And at the same time, it is the love of the Son who does not "judge" the world but gives himself for the love of the Father and for the salvation of the world. Giving himself to the Father through the Sacrifice of the Cross, he gives himself at the same time to the world: to each person and to the whole of humanity.

The Cross contains in itself the mystery of salvation, because, in the Cross, Love is lifted up. This is the lifting up of Love to the supreme point in the history of the world: in the Cross Love is lifted up and the Cross is at the same time lifted up through Love. And from the height of the Cross, love comes down to us. Yes: "The Cross is the most profound condescension of God to man . . . The Cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of man's existence" (Ioannis Pauli PP. II, Dives in Misericordia, 8).



FR. BERNARD WITEK

Director, St. John Paul II Liturgical Center

ZAPRASZAMY

You are invited to join us for Polish 1st Sunday!

A special Mass at the Orchard Lake Schools to pray for Polonia

Sunday, Oct 5th • 1:00 PM

- Polish Dinner after the Mass in the Dining Hall - Cost: \$20
- Please RSVP to the dinner by Wednesday, October 1st.
- For more information, call (248) 602-7579 or bernardwitek@yahoo.com.



at the Shrine of St. John Paul II, celebrated by Fr. Bernard Witek