The Victory of the Cross and the Urgency of Conversion

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. At the heart of our faith stands a mystery that must not be reduced to symbol or sentiment: through His Cross, Jesus Christ has conquered death. What appeared to be defeat has become the decisive victory of God. Death did not claim Him—He entered it freely, and from within He destroyed it. As the ancient Fathers proclaim, death seized His humanity but encountered His divinity, and in that encounter, death itself was overthrown.

The Cross, therefore, is not merely an event of the past. It is the living bridge by which humanity passes from death to life. Christ, having assumed our flesh from the Virgin Mary, descended even to the depths of death, shattered its dominion, and opened for us the way to eternal life. This is not poetry. This is reality. This is the truth upon which every Christian life must be built.

Yet we must speak with honesty: many who bear the name Christian continue to live as though this victory has not taken place. Too often, the life of grace is neglected. The Sunday Eucharist is treated as optional. Confession is delayed or abandoned. Baptism is approached as a social custom rather than a supernatural rebirth. Faith is reduced to culture, and discipleship to convenience. This cannot continue.

The word of God proclaimed in First Epistle to the Corinthians declares: "Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? … Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." And again, in Second Epistle to the Corinthians: "He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus." If this is true, then our lives must reflect it. Therefore, as your pastor entrusted with the care of your souls, I state clearly the path that must be embraced:

Return to the Sunday Eucharist as the center of your life. The habitual absence from Mass without serious reason is not a small matter; it is a rupture in our communion with God and His Church. Approach the Sacrament of Confession regularly and with sincerity. Do not remain in the state of sin when the mercy of Christ stands open to you. Ensure that Baptism is sought and received with faith, and that those who present children for Baptism are committed to raising them in the practice of the faith.

Reestablish prayer within your homes. A family that does not pray together will not remain strong in faith. Live as disciples in daily life: in charity, in truth, in fidelity, and in the courage to stand apart from what contradicts the Gospel. These are not optional ideals. They are the concrete expression of a life that believes in the victory of the Cross.

We must also contemplate the mystery of the new creation. In Eve, disobedience opened the way to death; in Mary, obedience opened the way to life. Christ, the new life, has entered the

world through her, and through Him, a new humanity has begun. We are no longer bound to the old order. We are called to live as those who have crossed over—from death into life.

In a world marked by confusion, moral compromise, and spiritual fatigue, the Church must not lose her clarity. Nor can we, as her members, live divided lives—professing faith with our lips while neglecting it in practice. The Cross stands before us not only as a sign of salvation, but as a judgment upon complacency.

At the same time, it remains a profound sign of hope. No sin is beyond redemption. No life is beyond renewal. The same Lord who conquered death continues to act—through His Word, through His sacraments, and through the life of His Church.

Therefore, I call every member of this parish to a renewed seriousness of faith. Let this be a moment of decision. Let us not delay conversion. Let us not remain at the surface. Let us live as those who know that Christ is alive, and that His victory is real.

Entrusting you to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and invoking upon you the grace and strength of the Risen Lord, I remain

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Vilaire Philius
Pastor