

Homily for Good Friday 2021:

Last night on Holy Thursday, I briefly pondered on God's choice for the renewal of His Covenants. The dramatic and Cosmic events of the Exodus and Christ's Passion and Resurrection are celebrated and renewed and made present in the intimacy of - a meal. Holy Thursday is a time of intimate communion with Christ.

Intimate – I continue to reflected on the mysteries of these days with that word. I hesitate to use the word Intimacy because the word is used often to speak of a physical relationship. But Intimacy means closeness, tenderness familiarity, and caring.

Today – the very public and crowded events we ponder are described in very up-close, intimate details.

God - Jesus - cares of each of us. His suffering and death are an up-close and personal passion. And as a reminder, the word Passion means both: a focused, energetic desire; and suffering. We often speak of an artist working passionately on a project. In such a phrase, we mean both that the person is single-minded, and that the person strains and suffers to complete the creation.

And this word, Passion, means both when we speak of Christ's Passion. He intimately cares for us; and that care is an intimate suffering for our welfare. The gospels lovingly present even the small, intimate details of Christ's suffering.

All of the details in our Lord's Passion and Death are dwelt upon. They are worth spending time with. They are presented that we might walk closely with Peter, John, the Blessed Mother and Joseph of Arimathea. We walk with Caiaphas, Pilate and the soldiers.

We spend time being close to Christ – allowing His suffering for us and because of us to touch our hearts, so that we might share with Him our hopes and dreams, our sorrow and our repentance.

This is a day to be close to Him. And this is the day to rediscover that He is here with us and inviting us to be still even closer with Him.