

Easter is the Token of Grace!

Reflection by Fr. John Tigatiga, SDS

Grace is a gift we don't deserve, a benefit we did not work for. God invites everyone to enjoy His gift of creation (our beautiful world, the sunshine, nature, etc.). But the grace of Easter is an extraordinary gift, rooted in the history of salvation given to humanity in Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and brought life and immortality.

During Holy Week, we reflect, especially on Good Friday, when a few hours before sunset, Jesus said, 'It is finished,' and died on the Cross (John 19:30). In the early morning hours of the first day of the week (Sunday), He rose again and opened the Gates of Heaven so that all of us now have a path back to the place where we were created in His image. (Mark 16:1–11).

It is on Easter that Jesus claimed victory over death, completed the work of salvation, and freed us from our sinful nature, the highest and most moving gift ever given. Often, we think something free doesn't have much value. But in this case, the gift of grace extended to us from God is extremely valuable—a loving gift of "Self" freely given on the cross.

A point of reflection for us is: what free and loving gift can we offer to the Father for the sake of others during the celebration of the Paschal Mystery? Moreover, a gift is given to those who accept. Are we ready in faith and truth to accept this grace by imitating Christ and preparing our hearts, minds, and actions to be more Christ-like?

Easter's grace is more than just erasing the past; it is about writing the future. That's because when we are freed from regret, blame, and shame, we can show grace to others in every situation.

God Bless,

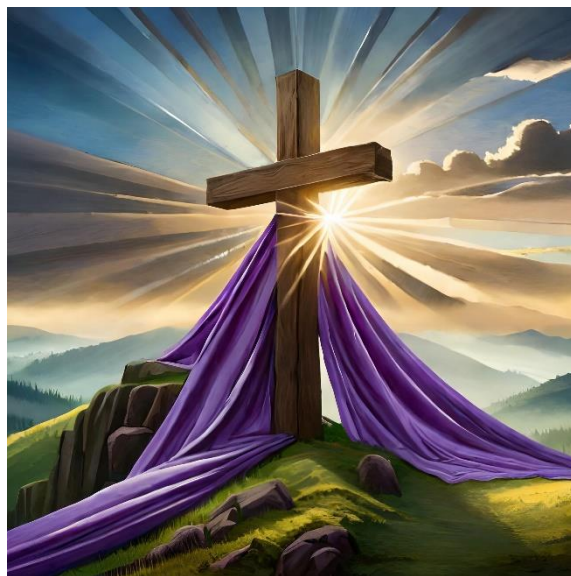
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Ordained in Tanzania East Africa in 2015, Fr. Tigatiga took on the role of Mission Office Director in 2019. He represents the USA community doing appeals for international missions.

His vision is to be a mediator, a bridge that connects, and thereby brings human beings to God.



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