

## HOLY SATURDAY

### The five wounds of Jesus Christ

#### 28.1 First Point

Adore the five wounds of Jesus Christ Our Lord and consider that he has kept them in his sacred body as glorious trophies of the victory he gained over hell and sin, from which he rescued us by his sufferings and his death. Know, says Saint Peter, that you have been redeemed from a life of vanity, which you learned from your forefathers, not by silver or gold but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb without blemish.<sup>202</sup> These sacred wounds from which this precious blood poured remind us of such an extraordinary favor.

Often let your eyes rest on this sacred object; look upon the wounds in your Savior's body as so many mouths that reproach you for your sins; keep in mind all that he suffered to efface them.

#### 28.2 Second Point

These sacred wounds do not only honor the body of Jesus Christ. As Saint Peter declares, they also help us recognize that Jesus Christ suffered to give us an example, so that we might follow him and walk in his footsteps. He bore our sins in his own body on the tree of the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for justice, having been healed by his bruises<sup>203</sup> and by these lovable wounds.

According to the same apostle, because Jesus Christ suffered death in his flesh,<sup>204</sup> realize, when you contemplate the wounds of your Savior, that they should induce you to die to yourself, that whoever is dead to the flesh sins no more, that for as long as we remain in this mortal body we should live no longer according to passions, but according to God's will.<sup>205</sup> Such is the conclusion we should draw from these words of the Prince of the Apostles. The benefit we can derive from the contemplation of Our Lord's wounds is to renounce sin entirely, to mortify our passions, and to oppose our too human and too natural inclinations.

#### 28.3 Third Point

These sacred wounds can procure for us this other benefit: to animate us to a love for suffering. For his wounds show us how powerfully Jesus Christ was impelled to suffer. In his glorious body he has preserved the scars of his wounds as so many ornaments and marks of honor.

As members of Jesus Christ you should likewise consider yourself honored to suffer like him and for him. You should, after the example of Saint Paul, glory only in the cross of your Savior.<sup>206</sup> Often prostrate yourself before these divine wounds. Look upon them as the source of your salvation. With Saint Thomas put your hand into the wound of the side,<sup>207</sup> not so much to strengthen your faith but to penetrate, if possible, even to the heart of Jesus and to draw from there into your own heart sentiments of truly Christian patience, of entire resignation, of perfect conformity to God's will, and the courage which will lead you to seek opportunities to suffer.

202 1 Pt 1:18-19

203 1 Pt 2:21-24

204 1 Pt 4:1

205 1 Pt 4:1-2

206 Gal 6:14

207 Jn 20:27