

- It's been said that, "Death is the best teacher of truth" (cf. *Humility of Heart*, p. 67).
- The phenomenon of death is the most powerful reminder to man that he is not omnipotent or the ultimate master of his own fate. No one escapes the clutches of death. No one. And this is a definitive truth we all must face.
- The truth is that this life has an end – even for the most powerful among us. Each and every one of us will die, and we have no choice in the matter. All that we can choose is the attitude and disposition we will have at our death.
- All we get to determine about our death is the state our soul will be in at that moment: either the state of grace that will bring upon us God's eternal mercy, or the state of mortal sin that will bring upon us God's eternal wrath.
  
- Yet today's liturgy does not really force us to consider our own death, but rather the unjust death of an innocent man – a man Who is also God.
- And in considering the heinous and unmerited death of Jesus, another definitive and even more supreme truth is revealed to us: that God is love.
- Truly, as our Lord Himself proclaims in St. John's Gospel: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13).
- Willingly subjecting Himself to the petty jealousy and cruelty of His enemies, and – in a wider sense – to the fickleness and coldness of the hearts of all men, Jesus laid down His life for us so that we might be redeemed.
- And in this knowledge, we see that our Lord's death teaches us yet one more truth: that each of us needs a Savior.
  
- Thus, as we enter Holy Week once again, preparing ourselves for the great and ultimate mysteries of our Faith that will be painted upon the canvas of our liturgies this week, let us enter into these mysteries with humility.
- Truly, the death of our Lord calls us to humbly recognize the ways we crucify our Lord by our sins, and the ways that we can be fickle and tepid in our love for Him.
- Yet, if the humility we cultivate in our hearts is true, the knowledge of our infidelities will not ultimately lead to us sadness, but to joy: the joy that comes from repenting and receiving our Lord's gracious mercy.
- And this is why we cannot be sad today. Christ's death reveals the truth that He loves us and wants to save us.
- May this truth fill our hearts with both an earnest hope and a courageous love, and may we cultivate a humility that will prepare us well for our own death, when we face Him Who is the way, the Truth, and the life.