



Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

Ave Crux Spes Unica

Reflection by H.E. Michael Scott Feeley, KGCHS

**We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection;
through him we are saved and made free.**

So proclaims the entrance antiphon of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, a great celebration of the Order that we will observe on September 14. The Feast commemorates not only the finding of the True Cross by St Helena, but also the dedication of the Shrine at that spot known as Calvary, upon which the crusaders built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

In these unbearably sad times where the cries of victims pierce our spirit, the revelations of cruelty and betrayal by some clergy enrage our hearts, and the failures of church leaders shake our faith, we must look to the Cross.

Our Lord took upon himself our sin, our bewilderment, our selfishness. Through his voluntary suffering, he transformed pain and death into life and resurrection. We must look to the Cross, especially now in gratitude and awe, and ask Christ to give us the strength and the will to beg forgiveness for the suffering inflicted by members of the Church, to be humbled by their wounds, and to seek justice and truth as we rebuild.

As members of the Order, we are called to witness both to the Sacrifice at Calvary and to the gloriously Empty Tomb. We are called to unite the suffering of the victims, our individual pain and anger, and our collective responsibility as members of the body of Christ to the True Cross. Only through the Cross do we arrive at Resurrection. As Knights and Ladies, let us extend our hands lovingly in compassion to our brothers and sisters who have suffered abuse, let us humbly acknowledge our personal and collective failures, and let us vigorously support and uplift the vast majority of our priests who serve us all so faithfully and sacrificially.

Alleluia, Alleluia.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.
Alleluia, alleluia.