

Reflection Delivered by
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Good Friday Prayer Service
In Reparation For The Sin Of Abortion
April 14, 2017
McQuaid Jesuit School

When I was a kid growing up in East Utica, I remember how every year from when I was about 5 years old, I would listen to the Passion Gospel. on Palm Sunday & Good Friday, & how for quite a while, I was puzzled by why we called the day Christ died “Good Friday.”...I mean, you take an innocent man who’s been preaching, healing, & helping people... You arrest Him in the middle of the night, drag Him before a kangaroo court, that sentences Him to death...U rip open His back w an iron-studded whip, press a crown of thorns deep into His scalp,...strip Him naked, nail Him to a crossbeam with spikes,...hang Him up in the air so a crowd can spit on Him, mock & insult Him as His body is slowly & painfully drained of life...And then you call it Good Friday?

It took a while, but eventually, I did come to understand that the key to Good Friday is not that it was GOOD on that day. It was bad, real bad...It did not become Good Friday until after the fact. Good Friday was **Awful** Friday...& then, Sunday came...On Sunday, God’s **full** plan was finally revealed....Jesus’ death was not a tragic, insignificant event...His death was the atoning sacrifice for all of humanity’s sins. ...His Resurrection proved that death had no power over Him, & He promised that if we put our faith in Him, it would be the same for us...His Glorious Resurrection had transformed Awful Friday into Good Friday.

This belief that the cross of Christ was not a tree of death, but a tree of life – a tree of hope - has been preached for centuries. If you were here 10 years ago, you heard me talk about one of the most powerful sermons on the cross ever delivered on Good Friday over 30 yrs ago by a little old preacher in a black church in Philadelphia... Before a congregation of about 500, he began his sermon with one line that he used over & over: *It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*. He began like this:

- ◆ It’s Friday, Jesus is arrested in the garden while He was praying,...betrayed by a friend... The Roman soldiers drag Him away...*It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...
- ◆ It’s Friday, the disciples are scared & running in all directions.. *It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...
- ◆ It’s Friday, they’re flogging Jesus, spitting on Him, mocking the Son of God...*It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’* .
- ◆ It’s Friday, Pilate is washing his hands; the Pharisees are calling the shots, the people are shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”... *It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...
- ◆ It’s Friday, Mary is crying her eyes out. Her body quakes with every pounding of the hammer as they nail her Son to that tree...*It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...
- ◆ It’s Friday, Jesus is dead on the tree....The sky is black...Birds stopped singing... Dead silence...His followers are shattered...All their hopes are dashed.... *It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...
- ◆ It’s Friday, His body lay in the tomb, a huge rock sealing it tight. Roman guards stand watch. It’s all over but the crying & the weeping...*It’s Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*.
- ◆ It’s Friday, Satan is strutting around, laughing...He thinks he’s won...He thinks he’s back in control...He doesn’t know it’s only *Friday, but Sunday’s comin’*...

That little old preacher went on like this for an hour & a half...After a while, each time he yelled, “It’s Friday,”...the people responded with: “but Sunday’s comin’!”...

My friends, the point that old preacher was making was this: yes, that Friday over 2000 years ago was a dark, tragic day on which it seemed that all hope was lost...But the glorious light of Sunday was yet to come, when the Risen Jesus would restore ALL hope...& just as He did then, He has been doing it ever since. As people of faith, we need to remember that on those dark Fridays in our life – in our world - and there will be many – we have reason for hope *because Sunday's comin'*.

For those of us who believe that all human life is sacred, it's been Friday since that day over 44 years ago...when the Supreme Court legalized abortion in this country...Some battles have been won;...more states are enacting laws putting restrictions on abortion, & limiting government funding of abortion, but the Abortion Empire led by Planned Parenthood & abetted by pro-abortion politicians – many of whom claim to be Catholic - is unrelenting in its commitment to deny the right to life to the most defenseless & voiceless members of society, the unborn. As we mourn the brutal killing of well over one million unborn children every year in the United States, it would be easy to become discouraged,... to lose hope that children in the womb will ever be granted the sacred status they deserve as miracles of our Creator's hands...But as children of the Resurrection, we know that YES – for unwanted lives - it may still *be Friday...But Sunday's comin'*.

It's Friday. Abortionists are doing their work over 4,000 times a day, snatching helpless, innocent lives from their mothers' wombs. *It's Friday.... But Sunday's comin'!*

It's Friday. Pro-abortion groups put their hands out to receive blood money to fund the legalized extinction of human lives. That's because *it's Friday....but Sunday's comin'!*

It's Friday. Pro-abortion voices are lying to pregnant women about the life growing in their womb, & about the physical & emotional effects their abortion will cause them to suffer,...actually telling them that abortion is a blessing. *It's Friday,..,but Sunday's comin'!*

It's Friday. People with hardened hearts guard their abortion clinics, ushering desperate women in to kill the life inside them,...& shielding them from the pro-life people who are there to give them truth & hope. That's because *it's Friday....but Sunday's comin'!*

It's Friday. Preachers at the pulpit are preaching mercy & compassion for sinners, but not a word of mercy & compassion for the defenseless little one's in the womb..That's because *it's Friday, but Sunday's comin'!*

My friends, we believe that Jesus Christ rolled away the stone on Easter morning, overturning the entire Kingdom of death...& establishing a Kingdom of Life,...making us a People of Life. ...People of Christ are a People of Life...If we stand with Christ, we stand for life, and against whatever destroys life...We must never give power back to death by using it as a means to resolve any of society's problems.... Abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, capital punishment, unjust wars, environmental abuses that endanger human life...All of these attacks on human life must be spoken out against & worked against, vigorously, by the People of Life.But the attack that cries out loudest to our Christian conscience, the one that demands our total response & commitment, is the deliberate, massive attack on the human life in its earliest stages...So, yes, we live in the Hope that Sunday's coming,...but we can't just sit & wait for that Sunday to come, as more and more precious little lives are being snuffed out.

We've gotta keep praying...we've gotta get on our knees & pray... Preachers need 2 keep preaching LIFE. ... We need to keep working to change hearts (every heart that's changed will save a life)... We need to write letters to the Editor, & to speak up for life on social media...We

need to call & write our lawmakers...We need to support & vote for pro-life candidates...We need to support ministries & organizations that counsel & care for pregnant women & their babies...We need to support pro-life political organizations like Americans United for Life, & National Right to Life...We must keep working for LIFE as we wait for Sunday....We must keep working to save the little one whom Jesus loves so much...even it means being demeaned & labeled religious fanatics by the Abortion Empire..."Fanatics for life" is a label we are proud to wear.

We must show the Abortion Empire that it is no match for the Kingdom of God,..the Kingdom of Life...We have got to take the power over life from the promoters, providers & purveyors of death ...& give it back to God... ...We have got to give the power over life back to God.

May our Lord Jesus Christ give us the strength and the courage to be People of Life,...to stand for LIFE...to keep working for LIFE...working to protect ALL life... EVERY life....In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. AMEN