

Many times I've spoken to you about the death of Jesus on the cross, it's meaning for us – for the forgiveness of our sins. Today I want to offer you something different.

Many of you have made a good Lenten confession, and so you all know of the peace and joy of being reconciled to God and of deepening your relationship with Him.

But many out there don't know this. They don't know that their sins can be forgiven. They don't know that they don't have to be a slave to their sins. They don't know how much God loves them and wants to comfort them even in their sufferings.

You must tell them. Otherwise, they may never know.

We all know people who seemingly do not know God, who live life in despair or anguish. How do you go about telling them? Show them the crucifix. Reveal to them that this is how much God loves them, that He was willing to do this for them.

Start there – with the cross – showing them God's love and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. And expect that the Spirit will help you to give witness then not only to the love of Jesus on the cross, but also to the joy of the Christian life found in its fullness in the Catholic faith.

As you venerate the cross today you venerate the Love that has saved you. But this love is not to be kept to yourself, but to be shared with those who do not know it in their lives.

Given by Father Mark Gurtner at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church on Good Friday, 2013.