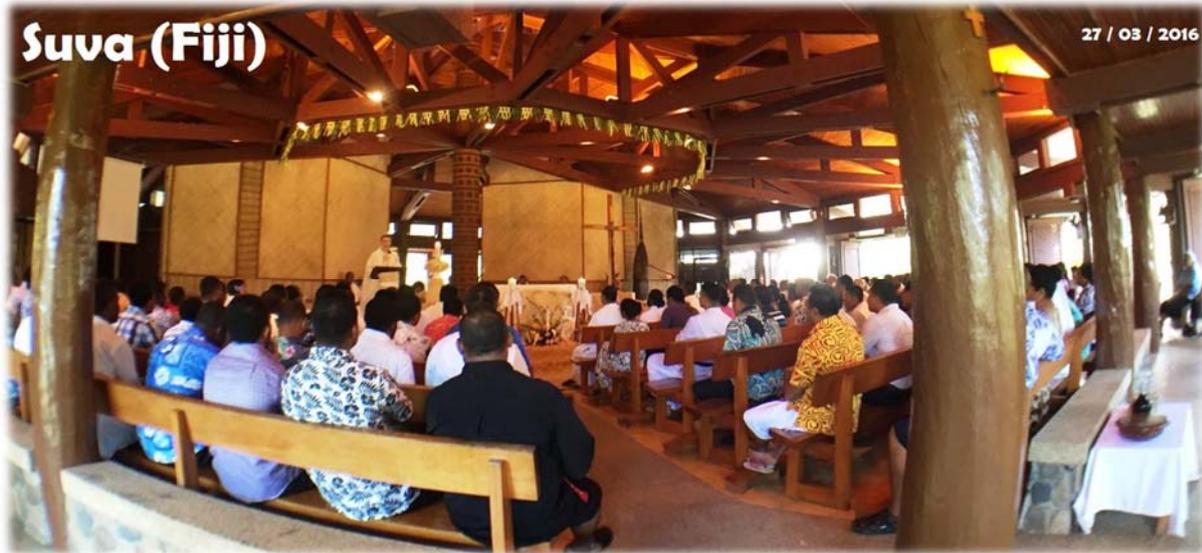


Table, cross, candle

Javier Álvarez-Ossorio ssc
Superior General

INFO SSCC Brothers No 101 – April 5, 2016



*Notes from the Easter Sunday homily
at the "Pacific Regional Seminary" in Suva, Fiji.
March 27, 2016*

Upon entering the chapel on Easter morning, even before listening to the readings for the day, the liturgical objects silently speak to us of the mystery that we had celebrated during the Triduum. These objects are the marks of Easter that introduce us into the heart of Jesus, into the fire of his love, and into the power of his resurrection.

Table

The table of the Eucharist reminds us of Holy Thursday. Each time that we see the table, Jesus again calls us "friends". Once again, we know his love to the extreme; we know that, for him, the greatest is the one who serves and washes the feet of others. We shudder when faced with his gesture of giving himself in the bread and in the wine. We receive the sole commandment, that of loving each other as he loves us.

Before the table, we recall that love is betrayed and denied, but this does not prevent Jesus from continuing to love. At the edge of the table, we want to lean back on the chest of the one who loves us and rest in his intimacy. From his table, Jesus awaits us and pardons us with patient love, because he accepts that we cannot bear everything now, and the time for a stronger and truer love will surely come later.

Cross

The cross reminds us of Good Friday. The sight of the cross is a slap of violence and suffering caused by the wickedness of human beings. They tortured Jesus. They killed him. Many people continue being martyred and slaughtered. Unbearable pain.

However, on Good Friday we draw near to embrace this cross. We venerate it. We unload our burdens and our tears on it. We feel the enormous relief of bowing at his feet. The cross is salvation. Jesus' love, his obedience to the Father until the end, saves us. He died "for us". The burden of our own life, our own sin, is too heavy; we cannot stand it, although we do not like to admit it. Jesus took on this weight and cancelled our debts.

From the cross, Jesus came face to face with human iniquity. From the cross, Jesus pardons, Jesus conquers. Each time we gaze at the cross, our wounds are cured; we are healed like the Israelites in the desert.

Candle

The pascal candle reminds us of the Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Christ is risen. His light overcomes the darkness. For as dark as the night may be, the light unstoppably opens a path in it. God's power has revealed itself. The father did not leave Jesus in the tomb. We do not see the risen Christ, but thanks to the gratuitous and mysterious gift of faith, we believe that he is alive, we can speak with him and we await his return

We SSCC...

Each time that we enter the chapel in our house, these three paschal symbols await us, they speak to us of the Heart of Jesus and they remind us of who we are.

- ◆ **Table:** we are a Eucharistic Congregation, we celebrate the Lord's supper and we adore him in the Eucharist.
- ◆ **Cross:** we are "children of the cross"; we are next to the cross like Mary; we accept everything –including death- to serve the Gospel; and we make ourselves available to enter into the reparative work of Christ.
- ◆ **Candle:** we ask for the light of Christ to illuminate our interior darkness, and we get involved in bringing this same light to every human darkness that we can reach.

Let us enter into our chapels and let us allow these to speak to us of Jesus!



Fiji, Easter sunrise