

In today's Gospel, John 3:13-17, on the Sunday before the feast of the Holy Cross, we hear the words of Jesus Christ proclaim, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Such a simple message, that God loves the whole world, everything and everyone in it! It is through the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ that this love was made manifest. And, although a cross was a symbol of death, through the Resurrection of Christ, it became a symbol of life—that of the Life-Giving Cross!

Dearest ones, we too must live life through the Cross. How do we do this? We do this through love. We can live life through the Life-Giving Cross by loving; loving our God, loving the Earth in its entirety, and loving our neighbor—our enemies, sinners and the righteous alike!

To love is to give life, and this is the fruit of lives lived for God; this is the way of the Cross. Let us pray to our loving God to open our hearts to allow His love to overflow within each one of us so that this love may billow throughout the world!

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.