

SERMON: THE CROSS & THE SPIN!

6 September 2026

Dominica XV Post Pentecosten

II. Septembris — Semiduplex Dominica minor

“And the Lord God took Adam, and put him into the paradise of pleasure, to dress it, and to keep it. And he commanded Adam, saying: Of every tree of paradise thou shalt eat: But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat. For in what day soever thou shalt eat of it, thou shalt die the death.”¹

IN THE NAME ✠ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

“And the serpent said to the woman: No, you shall not die the death. For God doth know that in what day soever you shall eat thereof, your eyes shall be opened: and you shall be as Gods, knowing good and evil. And the woman saw that the tree was good to eat, and fair to the eyes, and delightful to behold: and she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave to her husband who did eat.”²

Dear friends, today is the Fifteenth after Pentecost, and on this day holy mother bids us consider the power of Jesus Christ to raise the dead.

“Whom when the Lord had seen, being moved with mercy towards her, He said to her: Weep not. And Jesus came near and touched the bier. And they that carried it stood still. And He said: Young man, I say to thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And He gave him to his mother.”³

In a sense, she bids us sing with the Apostolic Choir:

“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?”⁴

Even so, amidst our song, she sobers our joy by placing our merriment within the Month of September, a month dedicated to the Holy Cross, and the Seven Sorrows.

And our blessed and wise mother does so because she knows it to be a truth that...

“STAT CRUX, DUM VOLVITUR ORBIS.”

“The Cross stands, while the whole world spins.”

And she knows too that “the spin” began in “the paradise of pleasure”⁵ into which the Lord God had placed Adam, and within which he made Adam sleep, so that He might create out of Adam’s “flesh and bones”⁶ a woman, a helpmeet suitable to him!⁷

Holy Mother Church knows that, unlike Eve who was deceived, when Adam sinned, he understood what he was doing, and for whatever reason: whether from pride, or from an inordinate affection for Eve, or from a mistaken hope that the offense would be treated as venial.⁸

But Adam did it anyway!⁹

And in “doing the deed,” my dear friends, Adam’s nature was wounded, and all of his posterity were plunged into the vortex of death.

Not that they would be condemned for Adam’s personal sin, but rather, having received from their father a nature wounded and weakened by his conscious disobedience, they would more readily repeat his error, and condemn themselves; and die the death!

“Wherefore as by one man sin entered into this world, and by sin death; and so death passed upon all men, in whom all have sinned.”¹⁰

Adam sinned. We sin. Everyone dies!

Which brings us to the glorious foot of the Cross of Calvary!

For when Adam sinned, God promised! Then at Golgotha, He made good on that promise!

And, with the foot of a Daughter of Eve, God crushed the Serpent’s head. With the fruit of her womb He redeemed the whole world, and offered eternal salvation to all who would repent of their sins, and believe the Gospel.

Through the Cross, Christ paid the price that frees men from the twin captivities of sin: to the devil who holds men in bondage through sin, and to the debt due to divine justice.

Through the Cross, Our Lord Jesus Christ became the visible, public, priestly victim offered to God for the purpose of honoring God and reconciling mankind to Him.

Through the Cross, He made superabundant satisfaction for the offense of Adam’s sin and the sins of all of his children.

Through the Cross, Our Blessed Lord “merited” the salvation of all the members of His Mystical Body!

But what’s more... through the Cross, Our Lord caused and causes to flow an infusion of sanctifying grace, the remission of sin, and the destruction of the devil’s power when fruits of his bloody offering upon the Roman gibbet are applied through faith and the sacraments.

Now you know what our lovely mother has always known:

“STAT CRUX, DUM VOLVITUR ORBIS.”

“The Cross stands, while the whole world spins.”

That a man can be made right with the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by practicing the religion invented by the Rabbis who rejected the Messiah of Israel is spin!

That a man can be made pleasing to God by submitting to the theological, moral and political doctrine of Mohamed is spin!

That “in Hinduism men ... contemplate the divine mystery and express it through an inexhaustible abundance of myths and through searching philosophical inquiry” is spin!¹¹

That a man through the various forms of Buddhism can come to realize the radical insufficiency of this changeable world; that through its teaching a man, in a devout and confident spirit, may be able either to acquire the state of perfect liberation, or attain, by their own efforts or through higher help, supreme illumination — is spin!

“STAT CRUX, DUM VOLVITUR ORBIS.”

“The Cross stands, while the whole world spins.”

Friends, the only question that remains is: Will you be found standing with our Lady and Saint John at the foot of the Cross — or be violently thrust about in the vortex of the spin?

“And the serpent said to the woman: No, you shall not die the death.”¹²

And as you come to receive upon your tongues — and in your persons — the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, I entreat you to plead with “the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies”¹³ to grant you the strength and the courage to stand at the Foot of the Cross while the whole world, ecclesiastical and secular, spins its way into eternal damnation, saying:

Let Thy continual pity, O Lord, cleanse and defend Thy Church: and because it cannot continue in safety without Thee, may it ever be governed by Thy goodness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, world without end. Amen.

Saint Helena, pray for us!

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

IN THE NAME ✠ of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Notes

1. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 2.15–17. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>

2. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 2.15–17. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>

3. Douay-Rheims Bible, Luke 7.13–15. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>

4. Douay-Rheims Bible, 1 Corinthians 15.54–55. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>

5. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 2.15. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>
6. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 2.21–25. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>
7. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 2.18. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>
8. Aquinas, *Summa theologiae* II-II, q. 163, a. 1–2; commentary on 1 Timothy 2.14.
9. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Genesis* 16.6 and 17 (PG 53:129–33), trans. Robert C. Hill, *Fathers of the Church* 74 (Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 1986). Chrysostom notes that Adam knew death was the penalty for breaking the command.
10. Douay-Rheims Bible, Romans 5.12. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>
11. *Contra Nostra Aetate* (Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, 28 Oct. 1965).
12. Douay-Rheims Bible, Genesis 3.4. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>
13. Douay-Rheims Bible, Matthew 6.25. Douay-Rheims Bible Online, <https://www.drbo.org/>