



Essential Evangelization

What's Your Boast?

Catholic Evangelization: today's readings hit a Catholic apologetics home run! While our Protestant friends boast of being saved for eternity by faith "alone" with the risen Jesus in their hearts (which is not necessarily a bad thing to have joy!), we Catholics proudly display the cross, and with a corpus! It is that great symbol of the Passion and Death of Christ that gives meaning to our lives.

The first reading from Isaiah, the great prophet of God, amazingly penned in the inspiration of God, some 700 years before Christ, "I gave my back to those who beat me." And Jesus fulfills.

And from Saint James, and one of the books that Martin Luther wanted to eliminate from the Bible (hey our Church wrote that Bible – he can't do that!), particularly for this very reading, "So also faith itself, if it does not have works is dead." We get involved in ministry for the poor and suffering all over the world perhaps better than any other organization on earth. And our very own Catholic Church fulfills.

And finally from the Gospel reading, after our first Pope Peter comes through in a big way with his life saving pinnacle proclamation, "You are the Christ," he puts his foot in mouth big time (we never do that!), after Jesus describes the kind of suffering and death he is about to endure. And then the great punch line and mission statement from our very own Lord and Savior, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it." And Jesus fulfills. How's your life saving cross traveling lately? What's your boast?

"May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord..."

From the Alleluia reading of today's Mass

Galatians 6:14

And Our Great Saint Paul fulfills

*This is one of a series of articles on
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