Cross or happiness?

There are those who want us to believe that our faith is a faith of fear, a dark faith, of self-conscious and frustrated men and women, that our faith is full of meaningless rules. But our faith is the opposite, our faith is light, our faith is trust and joy. Our faith is Christ, our faith is the love of Christ and Christ is life.

Perhaps many want easy happiness but that is not possible. There are no shortcuts to achieve happiness. The only way that leads us to happiness is through the cross, but the cross is with Christ. The cross without Christ is meaningless. The cross with Christ is life, and the cross without Christ is death.

The fruit of the cross, of the passion and death of Christ is the joyful Resurrection. The joy of Christ's resurrection in us also passes through the cross. Christ wants to give us salvation and happiness, but we must follow his example.

Christ showed his glory to the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration so that we could see his majesty. There Peter tells Jesus "Master, how good it is here! Let's make three tents." Peter experienced the happiness of being with Christ.

What do you choose? Cross or happiness? I choose happiness, but I choose the true happiness that comes through the cross, the happiness that comes to us from Christ. I choose the joy of a crucified Christ who from the cross taught us to love and with his resurrection achieved salvation for us. I choose happiness because I chose to carry the cross with Christ and that cross is a sign of love and resurrection.

In this lent we carry our cross, but with the hope that the cross is a source of joy.

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