

Sourcebook for Sundays, Seasons and Weekdays 2010 (LTP)

Author's Note & Disclaimer regarding Veneration of the Cross, pages 141-142

The wording was changed from "cross" to "crucifix" by the publisher, Cardinal Francis George, to reflect his preference and what is the policy in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The veneration of a crucifix rather than a cross is the second option in the rubrics of Good Friday. If all that we have written, I and others, were to be solely liturgical guidelines for the use of the Archdiocese of Chicago, then certainly the limitation to the use of the crucifix could be mandated. A bishop may make such a decision for his own diocese only. To do so for a publication used and respected thought the English-speaking world is as incorrect as it would be to say that a tabernacle may only be placed in the center of the sanctuary. Church documents say otherwise.

Below please find the documentation for maintaining the use of the word "cross" in the liturgical guidelines for the liturgies of Good Friday.

- *Paschale Solemnitatis* is used throughout to guide us in the proper and appropriate celebrations of Lent and Easter. This document uses only the term "cross" in the descriptions of Good Friday liturgies: see # 42, 58, 64, 68, 69, and 71.
- The *Missale Romanum 2002*, in the Rubrics for Good Friday, uses the term "cross" in English and "cruz" in Latin: see # 15-21.
- The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is very specific when it calls for a crucifix. It states in Latin that there be a "... *crux cum effigie Christi crucifixi*"; in the English translation "a cross with the figure of Christ crucified": see #117.

It makes little sense to follow Egeria's fascinating description of the veneration of the cross in Jerusalem and a reference to *Paschale Solemnitatis* 63, (all of which refer to the **wood** of the cross) with the instruction about a crucifix.

In the Diocese of Richmond, the recommendation is that a cross be used. It is the wood of the cross and not the feet of Jesus that is to be venerated by a kiss, a bow, or a touch.

Catherine Combier-Donovan
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