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Good Friday falls in the Christian calendar on the Friday before Easter and on this day we commemorate the passion and the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross. Good Friday is a day of strict fasting. It is the only day during the whole year when there is no celebration of the Eucharist in Catholic churches. Altars are left bare and church bells are silent. Instead of the celebration of the Eucharist, we participate in the liturgy of the Passion of the Lord, which consists of the Liturgy of the Word (including the sung or read Passion), the solemn prayers of the faithful, the veneration of the Holy Cross, and the receiving of Holy Communion. Dear fellow Branch Officers and Members of the Chicago District FCSLA, I am praying for us that we may fully realize today that Jesus died on the cross to provide the way for us to receive forgiveness from our sins. “For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.” (1 Peter 3:18)

