

**For my sake... (By Fr. Daniel Bessada):**

The dictionary definition of redemption is “the act of purchasing back something previously sold”. The Christian definition of redemption is more specific and is focused on Christ, salvation and the destructive effects of sin. The Christian definition of redemption is “the act of delivering from sin or saving from evil”.

I have never felt more precious or valuable until I was introduced to the Gregorian Liturgy when said “Neither an angel nor an archangel, neither a patriarch nor a prophet have you entrusted with our salvation.” As Your child, I thank you deeply for not giving this mission of redeeming me to anyone, but for my sake, You ministered Salvation to me when I disobeyed Your Law.

In fact, it is a wonderful experience being greatly loved when reading: “You have given Your Back to the scourge, Your cheeks You have left open to those who smite. For my sake, O My Master, You have not hidden.

Your Face from the shame of spitting”. I can’t recall doing this for You or anyone even the people I love, but You did all that for my sake!!!

On the contrary, here what I offered, “I put Your Law behind me by my own council, and became slothful toward Your Commandments. I plucked for myself the sentence of death”. That what I did for my sake!!!

“You, O My Master, have turned for me the punishment into salvation. As a Good Shepherd, You have sought after that which had gone astray. As a Good Father, You have travailed with me, I who had fallen. You have bound me with all the remedies that lead to life. You have given me the Law as a help. You are He who has sent to me the prophets for my sake, I the sick”.

It is unexplainable what I have done for myself compared to what You have done for my sake!!! Despite the fact that You had no need of my servitude, but rather I had need of Your Lordship.

My Heavenly Father, excuse me for You have told me to call You “Dad”, I ask You one last favor to pour Your Ineffable Love into my heart; so I may love You as much as You love me and have done all that - and still does – for my sake...