



A theological, historical, and deeply relevant reflection to understand the heart of the Christian mystery

1. A very current... and very ancient question

In a world that values what is immediate, visible, and “already overcome,” this question arises with force:

If Christ has risen, if He has conquered death... why does the Church still place at the center a Cross — a sign of suffering — and a tabernacle — seemingly silent and hidden?

At first glance, it might seem like a contradiction. But in reality, this apparent tension is one of the greatest treasures of the Christian faith. Understanding it not only enlightens our minds but transforms our spiritual lives.

2. The Cross is not a memory of the past... it is a living presence

For many, the Cross is simply the instrument of Jesus’ death. A historical fact. Something that “already happened.” However, from a Catholic theological perspective, the Cross is not merely a past event: **it is an eternal mystery that is continually made present.**

Saint Paul expresses this with striking force:

“We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles” (1 Corinthians 1:23)

Why preach Christ crucified if He has already risen?

Because **the Resurrection does not erase the Cross; it glorifies it.**

The Cross is:

- The place where God’s total love is revealed.
- The supreme act of redemption.



- The bridge between human sin and divine mercy.

Without the Cross, the Resurrection would be incomprehensible. And without the Resurrection, the Cross would be a tragedy without meaning.

3. The Resurrection does not eliminate the Cross: it transforms it

The risen Christ **does not erase His wounds**. In fact, He appears to the apostles showing them:

“*Look at my hands and my feet; it is I myself*” (Luke 24:39)

This is deeply significant. The wounds remain, but they no longer cause pain: **they have been transfigured.**

Here lies the spiritual key for our lives:

- Suffering does not automatically disappear.
- But in Christ, suffering can be redeemed, transformed, and filled with meaning.

That is why the Church continues to keep the Cross at its center: not as a symbol of defeat, but as **victory achieved through sacrificial love.**

4. The tabernacle: Christ not only rose... He stayed

If the Cross speaks to us of love carried to the extreme, the tabernacle speaks to us of something even more astonishing: **the permanence of that love in time.**

Christ did not only die and rise.

Christ **chose to remain.**

At the Last Supper, He instituted the Eucharist with words that leave no room for purely symbolic interpretations:



| *“This is my body... this is my blood” (Matthew 26:26-28)*

And even more:

| *“I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20)*

The tabernacle is the concrete answer to that promise.
It is not a symbol. It is not a memory.
It is a **real, true, and substantial presence**.

5. A living history: from the early Christians to today

From the earliest centuries, Christians reserved the Eucharist:

- To bring it to the sick.
- To adore it during times of persecution.
- To live in constant communion with Christ.

Over time, this developed into the practice of the tabernacle as we know it today: a worthy, central, silent place... where Christ waits.

It is no coincidence that many churches are built around it.
The tabernacle is the heart that beats within the temple.

6. Cross and tabernacle: two sides of the same mystery

Here is the theological core:

- **The Cross** → shows us the sacrifice of Christ
- **The tabernacle** → makes that same sacrifice present in a sacramental way

At every Mass, the Cross is not “repeated,” but rather **made present in an unbloody**



manner, the one and only sacrifice of Christ.

It is the same Jesus:

- who died on Calvary
- who rose in glory
- who gives Himself to us in the Eucharist

Everything is united.

7. Why is this so important today?

We live in a culture that:

- Avoids suffering
- Seeks quick solutions
- Reduces faith to emotions or ideas

In contrast, the Cross and the tabernacle teach us something radically different:

a) True love involves self-giving

There is no love without sacrifice. The Cross proves it.

b) God is not distant

The tabernacle breaks the idea of an abstract God.

Christ is there. Waiting. In silence.

c) Life has meaning even in suffering

In Christ, nothing is lost. Everything can be redeemed.

8. Practical applications for daily life

This mystery is not only to be understood... it is to be lived.



1. Return to the Cross in difficult moments

When suffering comes, do not immediately flee.
Ask yourself: *how can I live this united with Christ?*

2. Rediscover the tabernacle

Enter a church, even if only for a few minutes.
Remain in silence. Without words.
Simply be.

3. Live the Eucharist deeply

Not as routine, but as a real encounter with the living Christ.

4. Offer small daily crosses

Difficulties, fatigue, frustrations...
Everything can be offered.

9. A spiritual synthesis

The initial question contains only an apparent paradox:

- Christ has risen, yes.
- But His crucified love remains the path.
- And His Eucharistic presence remains the nourishment.

The Church preserves the Cross because **the love that saves passes through it.**
The Church keeps the tabernacle because **Christ has chosen to remain with us.**

10. Conclusion: it is not just a “why”... it is a “for what”

It is not only about understanding why they are there.

It is about discovering **what they are there for:**



If Christ Has Already Risen... Why Do We Still Have the Tabernacle and the Cross in the Church? | 6

- The Cross, to teach us how to truly love.
- The tabernacle, so that we are not left alone on that path.

And in the end, everything converges in a simple and deeply consoling truth:

Christ did not only conquer death...

Christ continues to accompany our concrete life, here and now.