

Unite Your Suffering with Jesus' Love

29th Sunday in OT

Today's Readings focus on the Suffering Servant - Jesus.

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink? ...

For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

This raises the question "How we respond in the face of suffering?"

If Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday have meaning for us, they call us to enter into Christ's path through suffering into a new, higher and better life.

Many great human beings faced suffering in their own personal lives. Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and St. Therese of Lisieux come to mind. Both of them were filled with great love.

But what about the people we know, who are close to us, or in our Parish - how do they face suffering?

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His Love and a desire to be with us throughout our life.

Jesus wants to be totally and completely a part of you. He wants His body to become your body — His blood to mingle with yours. He wants to give Himself to you completely, to share His life in yours and your life in His.

His life is a life of self-sacrificing service and commitment to care for you, each one of you, and to love you forever.

God invites those who suffer to put their suffering at the service of others by uniting it with the suffering of Jesus.

I have someone who is close to me who is suffering, who when I ask how do you do it, responds - I unite my suffering with Jesus.

About year ago in my prayers, I started asking Jesus, what does it really mean to unite yourself with Your suffering. I told Him, it is hard, as a human being and as a deacon when you see somebody suffering, to say: unite yourself with Christ's suffering.

I am sure we all have heard that or said that. And as I prayer over time, the following was revealed to me, so I share it with you:

Michael it is not my suffering that people should unite with - it is my Love.

I know that I am so loved by my Father that it releases in me all the love the Father has given me and that I possess for each one of you.

No matter what - I know that I am loved. Because of that Love, I can embrace the will of my Father to offer all of me to Him.

Think about it my friends - how could Jesus handle all that suffering in His life, in His passion, in His death, in His Crucifixion? - He had to go through all that as a human being because it would not have counted if it was divinely done. He had to be there to represent all of us.

So how did He do that as a human being? Did He just say well, I can take it - I'm strong - whip me some more! Or was it because He knew and embraced that He was so loved and loved us so much that He could do anything for His Father?

And I suggest to you my dear friends the way He got through the suffering because He Loved So Much!

Every insult, betrayal, rejection, falsehood, scourging and the Crucifixion was met with Love. He was able to embrace it all for Love - of His Father and for us.

Parents can become aware of this type of love - they want to make any sacrifice for their child. As do loving spouses and friends.

So when you look at the Crucifixion do you see suffering or do you see the totality of Love?

When that was revealed to me, I was able to see things differently.

I was able to look at the person who is close to me and others in our parish who suffer, and I now see how they are able to do what they can do. What seems impossible - is now able to be done because of their being united with the Lord's Love.

They do indeed Suffer - but Oh Oh how they Love!

So I invite you my dear friends to look closely, and you will find someone who Suffers with that type of love. Maybe in your parish, where you work, in your family. They're here.

They suffer in a unique way! They suffer because they know they are so loved by God. It is like the Lord said to me Michael:

The one who is close to you who you love, loves that way because she has accepted that she is a beloved of mine.

It is the thing that empowers that person to be the love to anyone they encounter.

Michael you are still struggling to become my beloved, to feel and embrace all the love I have for you.

St. Therese said there is a pent-up love in the Heart of God that He wants to share with each one of us.

Suffering Souls accept the Lord's Love and offer it to save souls who will love Him for all eternity. This is very pleasing to Jesus and His Father.

Suffering is the currency of love and every act of love - every suffering joined to Jesus through love - will shine forever.

So my dear friends I invite you to share with people, especially when they are suffering, they should unite their suffering with Jesus' Love. Because if they can do that it will enable them view their suffering through that Love and release all the love that is within them that they can share with everyone around them.

This will help them to have meaning for their suffering.

Praise Be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever, Amen!