

CAN WE DRINK THE CUP THAT JESUS DRINKS?

The cup that Jesus offers each one of us is **the cup of suffering!** The question Jesus asks James and John (Mark 10:38) and all of us is, "*Can you share in my suffering and drink the cup I drink?*" None of us wants to suffer. Even Jesus in his humanity (being both God and man), did not want to suffer. We are all familiar with Jesus' Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane (the First Sorrowful Mystery when we pray the Rosary on Tuesdays and Fridays) when Jesus became greatly disturbed and troubled (Mark 14:33). This is the unique moment of Jesus' desperation in the Gospels. This is the unique moment when Jesus knows that the time has arrived for his arrest, passion, and death. He had told his 12 disciples earlier, "*Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise.*" (Mark 10:33-34).

This is the time when Jesus makes this amazing prayer to the Father: "*Abba Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will, but what you will.*" (Mark 14:36). This is an invitation for all of us to **imitate Jesus**, the man, and to submit to the Father's will, even if it implies human suffering. We are all suffering. We are all carrying our daily crosses. Jesus is inviting us to accept our crosses.

Father, may thy will be done, not mine! When I accept the Father's will and accept my daily sufferings, I am drinking the cup Jesus drinks and I am sharing in Jesus' sufferings on His Way to the Cross! I cannot do it alone. Often, my cross appears to be so heavy that I may lose hope and get discouraged. But God is always there to help me carry the cross. **He** is the one giving me **hope**. I know that I can trust in Him. I know that **He** will send me the **graces of the Holy Spirit** to help endure my sufferings on earth. I believe that these sufferings are nothing compared to the **Joy** of being with **Him** now and eventually in heaven eternally.

Last week, October 19th, we celebrated the Feast Day of the First Martyrs in North America: Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf, and Companions. They were Jesuit missionaries who came from France to Canada in the 17th century. They evangelized many of the Native Americans. They were successful in their conversion efforts, but then were imprisoned and tortured. They are a good example of imitating Christ. They gave their lives literally to Christ. Their leader was St. John de Brebeuf who was tortured and killed in 1648. As he was preparing to die as a **martyr**, he wrote in his spiritual diaries: "May I die only for you, Jesus, who willingly died for me. I will take from your hand **the cup of your sufferings** and call on your name: **Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.**"

None of us may be called to be a martyr like John de Brebeuf or Isaac Jogues. But from our baptism, we are all called to **holiness**. We are all called to imitate Jesus, the Suffering Servant (Isaiah chapter 53, Mark 10:33-34). Our inclination is not to serve but to be served. A Christian servant does not seek any recognition. A Christian servant performs thankless, hidden acts of **love and kindness**. To be a servant, to be a suffering servant like Jesus, we have to be totally humble. We have to surrender to God the Father. We can do it only with the **help of the Holy Spirit**. As we open our hearts to the **Holy Spirit**, we can be transformed by letting the **Holy Spirit** guide our choices and decisions. In this connection, I am delighted that many of you have chosen to attend the 6-week course **The Gift**, that started this past week.

Whenever we attend Mass, we are invited to reflect on the sacrificial aspect of the Mass; Jesus the Suffering Servant offering his life for all of us.

Whenever we attend Mass, we hear the words of Jesus at the **last supper**, "*Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.*" Every time we come to Mass, we participate in the Sacrifice of Jesus dying for the redemption of our sins on the **cross**. Every time we come to Mass, Jesus invites us to share with **Him** in the **cup of suffering**. Every time we drink the Blood of Christ at Communion, we are reminded of sharing in **His suffering**.

Come Holy Spirit - Help us to drink from the **cup of suffering**. Help us to imitate Jesus who came to **serve**, not to be served. **Come Holy Spirit** - Pour into our hearts the graces to help us accept our daily sufferings. **Come Holy Spirit** - Help us to carry the crosses of our lives joyfully by maintaining **our hope** in **eternal life!**

*One in Christ,
Fr. Alain*