

**July 5, 2020**  
**Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Disclaimer: I stole much of my homily from Abbot Jeremy Driscoll's post on The Fourth of July. July 4. Our country celebrates America the beautiful. Much is beautiful about our Country and its people. Yet we live in this crazy year of 2020 in the middle of a pandemic that is not letting up and suffering over the injustice of racism. Where are we to go?

Jesus says, "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart."

Have you wondered why Jesus says, "I will give you rest" and then says, "Take my yoke upon you." Shouldn't he say, "I will take your yoke upon me?" Yet, the only way we can learn from his meek and gentle heart is to take his yoke upon us. When we focus on our yoke, our burdens it becomes heavy. When we focus on the Lord's yoke, his cross, our yoke becomes light. Why? Let me share a story.

When my dad died, I received a whole stack of cards from All Saints School students in Puyallup, where I served at the time. One card from a third grader read on the front, "Dear Fr. Gary, I am so sorry that your dad died." On the inside it said, "But just remember, it is not the end of the world." Our yoke of this horrible year is not the worst thing that ever happened. Here is Abbot Jeremy's point: The worst thing that has ever happened already happened when we put the Son of God to death on the cross. All evil was concentrated on the cross of Christ when he became sin for us. Everything in comparison to that is light. When we take his yoke upon us we, as St. Paul says to the Romans, "are not of the flesh; on the contrary, [we] are in the spirit."

We have a message to offer the world like no other. God has planted himself right in the middle of the messiness of our lives with the cross of Christ that has put sin to death. In the end, all will be well in Christ. If not all is well, then it is not the end.