

Friday, April 10th, 2020 - Friday of the Passion of the Lord or Good Friday.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in the midst of all the upheaval in our world, today we remember the Passion and death of Jesus. It would be good for all of us to slow down and reflect on how much God loves us. Take time to either look at a cross or hold a cross in your hands. Let God speak to you through the cross.

Many of us can share or relate to the cross that has been forced upon us by the Coronavirus; a cross we did not ask for, but that we have to carry. No one is exempt. The Coronavirus has affected everyone in the world. The uncertainty of the future is the hardship of today. Today, just as Jesus carried His cross, we join Him in carrying our cross.

I have been reflecting in my prayer about Simon of Cyrene. Maybe some of my reflections can be helpful for you as well. Simon of Cyrene was probably on his way to worship at the Temple with his family, when his life was suddenly interrupted in a drastic way; maybe like many of us who have had our lives drastically interrupted because of the Coronavirus. Simon of Cyrene was forced to help Jesus carry His cross. He didn't volunteer. He wasn't asked if he would like to help carry the cross. He had the cross thrust upon him. Simon did not complain. He didn't try to negotiate how long he would help carry the cross. He didn't suggest a different route to take because it was shorter or smoother. No, Simon merely carried the cross **WITH** Jesus.

Maybe each of us on this Good Friday, while holding or looking at a cross, can place ourselves in the place of Simon of Cyrene. Experience all the things you might imagine that Simon experienced. Do you think that Simon, while helping Jesus carry His cross, talked to Jesus? What do you think he might have said to Jesus? Do you think Simon had any questions? What questions would you have? What questions DO you have? How do you think Jesus responded to Simon? How do you think Jesus would respond to you? How is Jesus responding to you?

Remember that Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence; a way to offer to God a form of sacrifice in gratitude for all that God has done for you. Is fasting and abstaining difficult? Yes! But when we give meaning to it, such as I'm doing this because I love God, it helps make the sacrifice easier to carry. I pray that your Good Friday is filled with the peace and love that God has for you. It is only when we go through Good Friday that we can celebrate the JOY of the Easter Resurrection!!!

In Christ,

Fr. Dan