



OUR LADY of GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Matt's Musings February 28, 2020

The Cross

During this Lenten season, we journey with Jesus to the cross. All four gospels point to the saving nature of the cross. The gospel writers also tell us that we have to take up and carry the cross as well. In today's gospel, St. Luke writes that we must carry our cross daily. He is the only gospel writer to remind us of the quotidian nature of the cross. In a letter to St. Jane de Chantal, St. Francis de Sales said that it is not necessary to ask for the cross because it will find us.

One of the statements I wish we could eliminate from our lexicon is that God never sends us a cross too heavy for us to carry. First, the Scriptures seem not to agree with those words. Jesus fell three times on the road to Calvary, and Simon of Cyrene was forced to help Jesus carry his cross. Secondly, my experience is that the statement is often said by someone not carrying the cross, with good intentions, but I have never found that to be a helpful moment when I am in difficulty.

I believe that a more helpful and Christian response is to ask those who are suffering or in difficulty how we might help. The cross can be lonely, so assuring those who carry theirs that there are those who care and want to lighten or share in the weight and burden of the cross is a comforting balm. Simon of Cyrene is our guide. He was forced to help Jesus. Let us willingly and courageously offer to help others who are burdened with the weight of their crosses. Happy Lent!

Live Jesus!

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