

Dear Friends,

“Jesus said to his disciples:
‘Whoever wishes to come after me must
deny himself, take up his cross,
and follow me.’”
[Matthew 16.24]

Saint Paul speaks of the cross as being a stumbling block to those who do not believe. For us, who do believe, it is that which gives meaning to our lives. The cross is the prism through which God’s love enters our lives.

What is critical is to see the cross in its proper perspective. It is not meant to be oppressive or consuming. It is meant to be the source of our transformation and salvation.

The effectiveness of the cross is not how much it hurts but rather how much it touches our hearts. This touch helps us see all in a different light and most especially with charity. The cross is never meant for self-absorption. Rather, it assists us in seeing others with the eyes of compassion and hope.

Though of its time [14th century], the following quote by Thomas A Kempis underlines the point.

When you suffer tribulation and your heart is filled with sorrow, you are on the cross with Jesus, and when you find consolation in your devotions and delight in singing hymns and sacred songs, you rise with Jesus in newness of spirit. It is then that with joyful heart you will sing Alleluia, as one raised from the dead and freed from the tomb.

Therefore, no matter what happens or how oppressive the situation, be meek, humble, and patient – and this for the love of God. With patience, carry your cross together with Jesus, and die daily on the cross for your eternal salvation. Every affliction patiently endured in the flesh is medicine for the

soul, satisfaction for sins, and hope of future beatitude and glory. Amen.

I say of its time because God would not expect us to wish more suffering for its own sake. Nor to remain in a situation that is abusive, for example.

Rather the cross calls us to see, know, and embrace the inevitable in our lives. Both those things that hurt and those that ultimately call us to deeper union with God in Christ!

Sincerely,
Father Beaudin