

April 5, 2023

Good Morning!

Last day for Lenten confessions before Easter. Morning (9:15-10:15) and early evening (4:00-5:00)

1. Today's Readings: [Wednesday of Holy Week | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: Those of you who attend the Stations of the Cross are familiar with the Stabat Mater. Here are 2 verses that goes well with today's meditation:

Is there one who would not weep,
Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that Mother's pain untold?

3. Quotes of the Day:

~"Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, sorrow, suffering are but the kiss of Jesus ~ a sign ~ that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you." *Mother Teresa*

"She knew that her divine Son had it in His power to spare both Himself and her, all this suffering and humiliation. Even when they lived in Nazareth, she knew that He had power to multiply loaves of bread, change water into wine, or annihilate His enemies. But she never asked Him to do any of these things. All she ever asked for, was a life of intimacy with Jesus. She was happy to cooperate patiently with Him, in the work of redeeming the human race." *Antonio Cardinal Bacci*

St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Mary Follows Jesus to Calvary

Would Jesus have tried to keep his mother from following him to Calvary because of his desire to protect her? St. Alphonsus and others imagine what might have happened.

When Margaret, the daughter of St. Thomas Moore, met her father on the way to his execution as a martyr, she could only exclaim, "Father! Father!" and fall fainting at his feet. But Mary, at the sight of her Son on his way to Calvary, does not faint. No- for it's not fitting, as Fr Francisco Suarez remarks, that this mother should lose the use of her reason. Nor does she die, for God has reserved her for a greater grief.

But even though she doesn't die, her sorrow is enough to have caused her a thousand deaths. The mother wants to embrace her Son, as St. Anselm says, but the guards thrust her aside with insults, and urged the suffering Lord forward. So, Mary follows him. Holy Virgin, where are you going? To Calvary. And can you trust yourself to behold the One who is your life hanging on a cross?

St. Lawrence Justinian imagines Jesus saying: "Stop, my mother! Where are you going? Where do you want to come? If you come where I go, you'll be tortured with my sufferings, and I with yours." But even though the sight of her dying Jesus is to cost her such bitter sorrow, the loving Mary will not leave him. The Son moves forward, and the mother follows, to be crucified with her son as well.

"We pity even wild beasts," as St. John Chrysostom writes; if we were to see a lioness following her cub to death the site would move us to compassion. Shouldn't we, then, be moved to compassion as well to see Mary follow her Immaculate Lamb to death? We must pity her then, and also accompany her and her Son, by bearing with patience the cross that our Lord has given us.

-St. Alphonsus Liguori, *The Glories of Mary*

Source: A Year with May by Paul Thigpen