

Patience: Our Share in the Cross of Our Lord

If it seems to you that you have not yet suffered any tribulations, rest assured that you have not yet begun to be a true servant of God, because the Apostle clearly states that all those who wish to live piously in Christ will suffer persecutions.

St. Augustine

St. Athanasius, St. Basil, St. John Chrysostom, St. Jerome, and St. Cyril were accused of many evil things, and hence they suffered greatly.

St. Romuald, accused by one of his monks of having committed an abominable sin with him, was condemned in a public Chapter as deserving to be hanged and burned. Because of this calumny, he was prohibited to say Mass. Although almost a hundred years old, St. Romuald suffered everything with great peace.

The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things.

St. John of the Cross

Taulero tells us that he knew a great servant of God who had many visions and revelations, the gifts of understanding the Sacred Scriptures and of reading hearts. Fearing that these consolations would impede him from receiving those of the next world, he begged God to deprive him of all consolation. His prayer was granted. For five consecutive years he had no spiritual delights whatsoever, nor any visions. Instead he led a life full of afflictions, temptations and aridity of spirit. When God was moved to pity at the sight of so much suffering and sent him some consolation, he turned to Him with these words, "O Lord, I do not desire any consolation in this world. I only want You, my Love, to enter my heart. I

receive enough joy when Your holy will is accomplished in me." God was so pleased by this act of detachment, that He called him His beloved son. *Spiritual Diary*

Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Melly Faustin

Immaculate Conception – Manhattan, NY

Rose Ducanis

Binghamton, NY

John Ducanis

Binghamton, NY

Dale Albo

Sacred Heart Cathedral – Pueblo, CO

Msgr. Daniel R. Huber

Sacred Heart Cathedral – Pueblo, CO

Alan Kochevar

St. Mary's Help of Christians – Pueblo, CO

Betty Cortez

St. Joseph – Pueblo, CO

John Miazga

Shrine of St. Therese – Pueblo, CO

Each month, a Mass is offered for deceased members listed in the monthly letter as above; and another Mass is offered for all past deceased members.

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My Dear Friend in Christ, Could you please help with the printing and mailing of these letters with a donation? Thank you. God bless you and Mary keep you.

Paul H. Monette

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(Please send donations to: NAS, 414 Westberry Dr., Rapid City, SD 57702)



Communion Thanksgiving: Jesus sits in our soul as on a throne of grace. St. Alphonsus di Liguori

NAS Letter November 2022

... in His Presence

Christ on the Cross: is an Instruction and an Example

Teacher from the Cross:

St. Paul says, *I have determined that I would know nothing among you, except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* (1 Cor. ii. 2) The Apostle well knew that **Jesus Christ** was born in a cave; that, for thirty years, He inhabited a carpenter's shop; that He had risen from the dead, and had ascended into heaven. Why, then, did he say that he would know nothing but **Jesus crucified?**

Because the death suffered by **Jesus Christ** on the cross was that which most moved him to love Him, and induced him to exercise **obedience towards God and love towards his neighbor**, which were the virtues most specially inculcated by **Jesus Christ from the chair of His cross**. **St. Thomas**, the angelic Doctor, writes: "In whatever temptation we fall, in the cross ¹is our protection; ²there is obedience to God, ³love to our neighbor, ⁴patience in adversity;

Please take and keep this letter and reflect on its contents during the month in your visits to the Blessed Sacrament and see that your heart and mind will open to His grace into knowledge and love of God, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

whence **St. Augustine** says, "The cross was not only the instrument of death to the Sufferer, but His chair of teaching."

Reflect on Jesus on the Cross:

O devout souls, let us labor to imitate, the Spouse of the Canticles, who said, *I have sat under the shadow of Him whom I desired.* (Cant. ii. 3) Let us place often before our eyes, especially on Fridays, **Jesus dying on the cross** and let us rest then for a while, and contemplate with tender affection ¹His sufferings, and ²the love which He bore to us, while He continued in agony upon that bed of pain.

Repose of the Soul:

Let us also say, *I have sat under the shadow of Him whom I desired.* (Cant. ii. 3) **Oh, how sweet is the repose that is found by souls who love God** ¹in the midst of the tumult of this world, and ²in the temptations of hell, and even ³in fears of the divine justice, when they contemplate in solitude and silence our loving Redeemer, as He hangs in agony upon the cross, while His divine blood flows forth in drops from all His limbs, stricken and laid open with stripes, and thorns, and nails!

Detachment:

Oh, how the desires ¹of worldly honors, ²of earthly riches, ³of sensual pleasures, depart from our minds at the sight of Jesus crucified!

Then does there breathe from that cross a heavenly gale, which sweetly detaches us from earthly things, lights up in us a holy desire to suffer and die for love of Him who has been willing to suffer and die for love of us.

. . . a Motive of Confidence and of Love

Oh Jesus! Why not You?

O God, if **Jesus Christ** had not been what he really is, the **Son of God**, and true **God**, our **Creator** and supreme **Lord**, but a mere man, who would not be moved to compassion at the sight of a youth of noble blood, innocent and holy, dying through the strength of His torments upon a shameful tree to atone for sins not His own. but those of His enemies themselves, and thus to deliver them from the death which was their due?

How, then, is it that the affections of all hearts are not drawn to a God Who died in a sea of insults and pains for love of His creatures? How can they love anything but God? How can they think of anything but being grateful to him who is their so loving benefactor?

St. Andrew's Testimony:

Oh, if thou knewest the mystery of the cross!" said **St. Andrew** to the tyrant who sought to induce him to deny **Jesus Christ** because **Jesus** had been crucified as a malefactor. Oh, if thou couldst understand, O tyrant, the love which **Jesus Christ** hath borne thee, in being willing to die upon the cross to make satisfaction for thy sins, and to obtain for thee eternal happiness, certainly thou wouldst not labor to persuade me to deny him; but thou thyself wouldst abandon everything that thou hast and hopest for upon this earth, in order to please and satisfy a God who has so loved thee."

Love of Jesus Christ considered?

What have not so many saints and holy martyrs done, who have left all for **Jesus Christ**! Oh, shame unto us: how many young virgins have renounced the marriage of the great, royal riches, and all earthly delights, and have willingly sacrificed their life to return some recompense of love for that love which was shown to them by this crucified **God**!

How is it, then, that the Passion of **Jesus Christ** makes so little impression upon so many Christians? It is, that they apply themselves so little to consider what **Jesus Christ** has suffered for love of us.

Affections:

O my Redeemer, I have been of the number of these ungrateful ones! Thou hast sacrificed Thy life upon a cross that Thou mightest not see me perish, and have I repeatedly been willing to lose Thee, an infinite good, by losing Thy grace? At this time the devil would have me believe that it is impossible that I should be saved, by bringing my sins to my remembrance;

but the sight of Thee crucified, O my Jesus, assures me that Thou wilt not drive me from Thy face, if I repent of having offended Thee, and desire to love Thee.

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Contrition:

Yes, I repent, and desire to love Thee with all my heart! I detest these accursed pleasures, which have caused me to lose Thy grace.

Resolution:

I love Thee, O Thou Who art infinitely worthy of love, and desire ever to love Thee; and the memory of my sins will serve to inflame me the more in the love of Thee, Who hast come to seek me when I fled from Thee. No; I desire to be separated from Thee no more and not to cease to love Thee, O my Jesus.

Ejaculation:

O Mary, refuge of sinners, thou who hast so much shared in the sufferings of thy Son in His death, pray to Him to pardon me, and to give me grace to love Him.

The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ by St. Alphonsus