



THE SCANDAL OF THE CROSS: MYSTERY OF LOVE

LENT 2021 SIXTH WEEK

During this Holy Week, you are invited to be with Mary. Begin with a few centering breaths. Quietly consider and visualize when Jesus met his mother on the way to his execution. Mary did not faint, scream in rage, or despair. She did not try to prevent the soldiers from torturing him more. She looked him in the eyes and knew that his “hour” had come at last. Now his sorrow and her sorrow merged in a deep knowledge of the hour in which God’s plan of salvation was being fulfilled.

-- Henri J M Nouwen, *Walk With Jesus*

HOLDING THE PAIN

When you hold pain consciously and trust fully, you are in a very special liminal space where you have the possibility of breaking through to a deeper level of faith. Hold the pain of being human until God transforms you through it.

As an example of holding the pain, picture Mary standing at the foot of the cross. Standing would not be natural for a Jewish woman expected to wail and lament to show her suffering. Mary, a woman of deep faith, is holding the pain instead. She is completely in solidarity with the mystery of life and death. Her message is: there is something deeper happening here. How can I absorb it just as Jesus is, instead of returning it? Until you find a way to be a transformer, you will pass the pain on to others. -Richard Rohr, OFM, *A Spring Within Us*

REFLECTION

Mary and Jesus are transformers. They are never transmitting the pain to others. Despite all the hostility— none of it is returned. They hold the suffering until it becomes resurrection! That is **the core mystery** of Christian religion the power of **becoming God’s “new creation.”** – Richard Rohr, *A Spring Within Us*

Am I ready to participate in the Passion of Jesus and share in his work of redemption? Am I willing to join Jesus [and Mary] on the way: the way of love, the way of self-giving, the way of [holding the pain]? -Sr. Edith Prendergast (Reflection published in *Give Us This Day*)

PRAYER

Holy Virgin Mary, among all the women of the world, there is none like you; you are the daughter and handmaid of the Most High King and Father of heaven; you are mother of our most holy Lord Jesus; you are the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Pray for us.