

# **STAY WITH ME, REMAIN HERE WITH ME.**

## ***A LENTEN RETREAT ON PRAYER***

**THERE IS NO GREATER LOVE THAN TO GIVE YOUR LIFE...**

**PALM SUNDAY**

### **The CROSS OF LOVE**

The cross of Jesus is *the* Christian symbol, and at this liturgical season it is filled with significance for us. However, it is important that we remember that the cross is a symbol of LOVE because of Jesus and his willingness to give himself.

As we look at this great mystery of the death of Jesus we also look at the life of Jesus which led to this death. We often say that *Jesus died FOR US* as if this were the only purpose of his whole life. Jesus' life was more about *living for God* than about *dying for us*.

What we learn about the death of Jesus and celebrate during Lent is the *love* Jesus had for God and for God's *cause*. This love and commitment led to his death which Jesus accepted. God did not *will* the death of Jesus but, rather, the coming of the reign of peace and justice for all humanity. We all know that the *coming of God's reign* requires the enduring of birthing pains and the struggles of the dying process, and yet, within birth and death is LOVE.

**LIVING HOLY WEEK:**

1. How can I imitate the self-giving of Jesus in my life? How is this also a self-emptying?
2. Can I remember a time in my life when my love (for God, Jesus or another) also meant *suffering*?
3. How do I meet the suffering in my life with *acceptance...hope...trust...?*
4. How did Jesus proclaim his love for God through his suffering?
5. We can suffer for one another as surely as we can pray for one another.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/041419.cfm>

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Luke 23:1-49

**MUSIC SUGGESTIONS: Take Up Your Cross by David Haas**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkJRrhZyR3I>

#### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**The salvation of humanity is through love and in love.** *Vicktor Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning*

**What was pleasing to God was not the death of Jesus, but the fullness of his life and ministry.** *Jon Sobrino, Jesus, The Liberator*,

**The Cross does not save, but God saves in spite of and in the face of the cross.** *Roger Haight, Jesus, Symbol of God*

**God never leaves us to suffer alone. It is in God's presence and love that we undergo the pain of growing to new life.** *S. Sandra Weinke, A Theology of Suffering*

**If Christ was not raised, you are still in your sins.** *1 Cor.15:17*

**JESUS DID NOT TAKE OUR PLACE ON THE CROSS, BUT SHOWED US HOW TO PLACE OURSELVES THERE.** *Sandra Weinke, 3/3/07*