

**FOR: ALL MBG ARCHDIOCESAN / DIOCESAN / APOSTOLIC VICARIATE/
PRELATURE / MOP/ COUNCILS
ALL MBG PARISH UNITS IN DIOCESES NOT YET FORMED AS A COUNCIL
ALL SPECIAL MBG UNITS**

REF: WALKING THE WAY OF THE CROSS with JESUS

My Beloved Mother Butlers,

As we enter Holy Week, on the second year of covid-19 pandemic, how can we walk the way of the cross with Jesus? During lockdown. With our churches closed. With religious gatherings and services prohibited.

May I share two thoughts from the Passion of Jesus...

1. "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me, still not my will but yours be done."

My own cup of suffering: My sister... our youngest (our eldest lives in the States) was rushed yesterday, Sunday, to the hospital for covid... her son told me that as she was being carried to the ambulance, very weak and couldn't walk on her own, she kept calling Nora Tita, Nora Tita (how she calls me)... and I couldn't even be there for her to see me, nor for me to hold her hand. When we were young she was always my little sister who would run to me for her little fights, also for her glowing joys ... even in later life, we were not only sisters but friends. And now in her agony I couldn't even be with her, to tell her to be brave, to fight, and that I love her. This cup of suffering I offer to Jesus so as to take away even a little pain from the cross thrown at his back, the cup of suffering thrown by the will of his Father that I carry ... please to heal my little sister.

Think, what is your cup of suffering ... feel its pain, embrace its pain ... then offer this to Jesus as your way of walking the cross with him.

2. "Women of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, weep instead for yourselves and for your children..."

A man, very powerful, very rich, forgot that all things come from God...he would even boast that his wealth, his power were self-made ... that his farm tenants' lives depended on him... that he could make or break them. His son graduated cum laude and his wife wanted a thanksgiving Mass. But the man had a better idea ... he said what was needed was a big party to celebrate his son's graduation and where he could present his gift to his son. O, it was a ball ... food and drink flooded the evening. At 12 midnight he presented the keys of a gorgeous Porsche sports car to his son and told him to drive it away with his friends. Before dawn, driving back toward home at break neck speed the son drove straight into a parked ten wheeler. At the funeral of his son, the man bowed with pain and grief said: I weep for my son, as I weep for my arrogance and boastfulness that killed him.

Think, what should you weep for ... indifference, hardheartedness, meanness ... nail these to the cross of Jesus as you walk the way of the cross with him ... that these may die with Christ... and you may be white as snow as you rise with him.

Say often throughout Holy Week, "I love you, Jesus, and I adore you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed me and the whole world."

@ChristhugsfromhisCross



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