

## Reflections While Walking Grief

- Deacon Bob Salvestrini –



Over the past year several friends and my brother also have lost their spouse. And although none of these losses have been attributed to the corona virus the restrictions imposed by the virus have exacerbated the pain experienced with each loss. In order to be as sincere as I can be when I extend condolences to my friends I struggle to imagine what they must be feeling as they confront the loss of someone that had been a part of them and that they loved so dearly. My brother tells me that he wakes at night to see his wife lying next to him only to realize a second later that she isn't really there. For someone like myself, who fortunately has not experienced the grief associated with such a profound loss, my brother's revelation led me to reflect at length on the emotions that accompany such a loss and how might I better understand what he and the others are experiencing.

As I tried to reach a better understanding of what my friends were experiencing the Holy Spirit led me to discover the sculpture depicted here. The Romanian artist Albert György sculpted "Melacolieto" to capture the emptiness and heartache he felt after the loss of his wife. The sculpture is located in a park on shores of Lake Geneva, Switzerland. It has become a beacon of solace and hope for those struggling to understand their feelings as they cope with a tragic loss.

Reflecting on this sculpture helps me span the gap that exists in my understanding of the grief that one experiences when they lose someone that has been a part of them. The dismembered body, a head bowed in anguish looking for a part of himself that is no longer there, and bits and pieces missing from various parts of his being speak of a sadness and loneliness that are felt when a loved one has been lost.

I pray that one day artist György will be inspired by the Holy Spirit to sculpt a statue that conveys the mitigation of sorrow that can occur when one is open to God's healing grace.