

Reflections While Walking *The Cross*

- Deacon Bob Salvestrini -



With the Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday we have the opportunity to take a closer look at some of the different directions meditations on the Cross may lead us. As a deacon presenting the cross to parishioners as they approached to worship, I've been inspired by the many and varied outward expressions of faith each individual displayed as they reverenced the cross. I can't help but wonder what each person senses in Jesus' image on the cross that makes their faith so visible at that moment.

Some adorers approach appearing sadden by the image before them. Occasionally damp and glistening eyes can be detected among them. I wonder if they sense a deep empathy for the human Jesus as they witness the broken tortured body of the man. Possibly they are disturbed by the inhumanity evident in the horror that is before them. When someone approaches and a slight tremor in them reveals their feelings, I wonder if the agony and pain of the crucified Jesus suddenly becomes so real to them that their body reacts involuntarily?

There are those adorers that approach carefully and slowly in awe and wonder of the image before them. It's as if they sense the great mystery of unfathomable love that the self-sacrificing Jesus expressed in accepting his cross. It is a mystery that causes one to ponder why God would choose the crucifixion of His son to demonstrate both His love for us and provide an example of what it means to be His disciple.

There are also those who approach the cross with no outward sign of emotion, seemingly unmoved by what they see. I certainly cannot judge what their hearts or minds might be saying to them about the sacred image, but their demeanor stimulates me to expand my own meditations on the cross. In this case I am reminded of that portion of humanity that has not known that there is a God who is willing to offer His life for their salvation and wonder if I am doing enough to make Him known.

What aides do you look for to expand the meaning of the cross for you?