

# Alleluia! He Is Risen! Alleluia!

Religious souls - good and wonderful souls - oftentimes do not completely understand the proper way to carry the CROSS. They find that they can endure the nailing and the thirst. Sometimes it makes them feel better if they actually look for ways to suffer. Sometimes they look for hot coals to walk upon, for then they can say - "Dear Lord, do you not see how willing I am to suffer for you. I love to suffer for you!" There are many who have prepared themselves for suffering - all their lives. But there is something that causes them great suffering - greater than the nailing and the thirst - and for this they are seldom prepared. It is the sense of not fitting the cross upon which they are stretched. They seem to object being stretched to a figure which they feel was never designed by God for them. So long as they can still see the wood of the cross, knowing that it was on this kind of plank that Christ was crucified, they can find themselves rising to meet the challenge of love - the challenge of the nails and the thirst and the hot coals to walk upon. But the challenges that they accept - are they not self selected challenges? Are they not challenges which they themselves have in some way or other designed for themselves, as being best suited to their inclinations? Is not the cross they love to bear a cross which they have constructed? Then the problem - - - when the cross of Christ - the real cross - is out of sight behind them - and particularly when they are being pulled this way and that by those around them, or by the realities of the life they have to live, or by the sins they continue to commit, or by unexpected sickness they have to endure, and all of the rest, - - they begin to wonder if they are in the right place. When the warm glow of the cross they constructed is no longer warm and no longer glows, they begin to question, they begin to feel that they are being nailed to the wrong cross. And then they begin to look around for a Calvary that is somewhere else!!! We have to understand that the Cross, like God Himself, is hidden in the cloud. The things that happened on Calvary are secrets - Divine Secrets - and are revealed only in Faith. Even then they remain obscure and hard to understand, even by those who love much. And so we will always go on stumbling under the cross we built out of the wood that we found lying about the religious preferences that surround our life. And so we fumble and stumble because we fail to understand the paradox of the spiritual life to which we are all called and that is that the crosses which bring us nearest to Christ are those that we have not fashioned ourselves and that get most in the way of the life we wish to live.

1. Let us not ever put aside the necessity of the Sacrament of Penance. We should not approach the Altar Railing for Holy Communion if we have not properly confessed our sins.
2. Please continue to pray for good and solid vocations to our Monasteries. The need for good and holy Nuns and Monks is truly great.
3. Please pray for the Sick and Shut-Ins of our Chapels, especially remember: Al Sachs - - AND - - Christopher Hand, a young gentleman that attends our Chapel and who has suffered a serious eye injury. Pray to St. Lucy and to St. Benedict.
4. MASSES FOR THE WEEK: (Abbot Leonard's Schedule Only)
  - SUNDAY: For the People of the Chapels
  - MONDAY: Dec. Josephine Macauley
  - TUESDAY: Dec. Charles Folk
  - WEDNESDAY: Special Int. Anna Rita Huelskamp
  - THURSDAY: Dec. Father Mark Mages, O.S.B. (IV)
  - FRIDAY: Special Int. Mary Johnson
  - SATURDAY: For the Poor Souls

