

Good Friday – April 14, 2017 -- Fran Glowinski, osf

Back in 1969, a priest visiting from Poland shared a picture with me. It was of the large crucifix in the church where he was the rector. The church had been bombed during the war and the top half of the corpus had been blown away, leaving the cross itself and the lower half of the sculpture of Jesus still hanging. Someone had the truly inspired idea to replace the top half of Jesus' body and the top half of the cross using wire instead of plaster. The result is that, gazing at the cross or even at the picture, you see the dying Christ, but you see **THROUGH** Jesus and **THROUGH** the cross.

That image seems so apt for the one Friday of our year that we call Good. So apt for this day when we proclaim with everything in us, with song and symbol, with words and gestures...that we followers of Jesus have the courage to face loss and evil in all its forms: from ordinary, fairly predictable losses to catastrophic, life-changing ones.

We have, together, the courage to hurt with the dying, the grieving, the addicted, with refugees. With Syrians, with Muslims, with those in danger of being deported or left behind, though we may never meet; we proclaim that we count as our sisters and brothers the trafficked and the tortured.

We proclaim that, in fact, that suffering and loss, our very vulnerabilities, unite us if as we let them. That they weave us together; make us companions for our walk this day to the cross.

If you can and if you will, please hold in your mind and heart now the image of the partially transparent Jesus on the partially transparent cross.

When it is time, after the solemn intercessions, may we walk... or hobble or roll, whatever our legs allow, may we move with the courage born of community and the Spirit of Jesus the Christ within us, among us. May we move **TO** the cross in reverence, and metaphorically then, let us walk **THROUGH JESUS AND HIS CROSS**, trusting that **DAILY** we live and die and rise **AS** the Christ, as his Body, as his very heart and mind, as his hands and on his gently washed feet.

Our bonds thus deepened, wherever we find ourselves walking, rolling, limping, may we continue to face courageously the not yet known, each of us a blessing in the heart of our world.

So may it be. Amen. Amen.

