

August 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I have been reading the book, *The Essential Wisdom of the Saints*. The author, Carol Kelly-Gangi, gathers together hundreds of memorable quotations from saints and arranges them thematically so that the reader may reflect on what was important to the saints themselves and how that might continue to bring special meaning for all of us.

In the chapter dealing with suffering I leave you a few quotes to reflect upon. Suffering is a part of the journey of life. It can impact us spiritually, emotionally, mentally and physically. At times we can courageously endure the suffering, at other times we feel it weighing heavily upon us. We ponder on Jesus' words..."Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." (LK 9:23) or ..."Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (MT 11:28)

Here are some of the quotes of saints regarding suffering...

"I hope that I so blessed will be that every suffering pleases me."(St. Francis of Assisi)

"I have had crosses in plenty-more than I can carry, almost. I set myself to ask for the love of crosses-then I was happy." (St. John Vianney)

"The debt we pay for this beautiful creation and the many enjoyments of this life are to be borne in some degree by us all. Human life and sorrow are inseparable." (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton)

"I would willingly endure all the sufferings of this world to be raised to a higher degree in Heaven, and to possess the smallest increase in the knowledge of God's greatness." (St. Teresa of Avila)

"Many would be willing to have afflictions provided that they not be inconvenienced by them." (St. Frances de Sales)

In Christ,

Fr. Don Wagner