

Jesus Gave Sister a Sip from His Chalice of Suffering

It was here, on Mount Olivet, that Adam and Eve took refuge when driven out of Paradise to wander homeless on earth, and they had wept and bewailed themselves in this very grotto....He [Jesus] fell on his face, overwhelmed with unspeakable sorrow, and all the sins of the world displayed themselves before him, under countless forms and in all their real deformity. He took them all upon himself, and in his prayer offered his own adorable Person to the justice of his Heavenly Father, in payment for so awful a debt. But Satan...filled with diabolical joy at the sight of them, let loose his fury against Jesus..."Art thou prepared to satisfy for all these sins?"...When the huge mass of iniquities, like the waves of a fathomless ocean, had passed over his soul, Satan brought forward innumerable temptations, as he had formerly done in the desert...He reproached him with the faults of his disciples, the scandals which they had caused,He reproached Jesus with having been the cause of the massacre of the innocents, as well as the sufferings of his parents in Egypt, with not having saved John the Baptist from death... In one word Satan, in the hopes of causing Jesus to waiver, suggested to him every thought by which he would have tempted, at the hour of death, an ordinary mortal ...for it was hidden from him that Jesus was the Son of God.

(Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, **THE DOLOROUS PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**, Dover Publications, Pgs. 99-101.)

Blessed Anne also saw her own sins. She saw how the soul of Jesus became terrified at the sight of the innumerable crimes of His creatures and their ingratitude towards God. The sight of the expiatory sufferings about to come over him crushed him to the earth as He fell from side to side. His body was covered with a cold sweat, his face pale and altered in appearance, his hair standing on end. He struggled to His feet and went to His apostles for comfort, only to find them asleep. He fell at their knees, overcome with sorrow. **"Simon, sleepest thou? ... Could you not watch one hour with me?" ... Had he not been still surrounded by a well-known halo of light, they would never have recognized him as Jesus.** (Emmerich, Pg. 102.)

Jesus returned to the grotto and endured a second interior combat in which angels showed him visions of the sufferings he would endure to expiate our sins, all of which originated in the sin of Adam. Jesus saw the future sufferings of his apostles and His Church, the heresies and schisms, the corruption of so many Christians, the lies of proud teachers, the sacrileges of wicked priests. ... He saw those who passed on in disgust at the sight of the wounds of his Church, just as the Levite had passed by the poor man who had fallen among robbers. He saw the scattered who refused to see his City high on a hill so it could not be hidden, the House of his Spouse, His Church built upon the rock, which He promised to remain with until the end of time.

... the debt of the whole human race had to be paid by that humanity which alone was sinless—the humanity of the Son of God. ... No tongue can describe what anguish and what horror overwhelmed the soul of Jesus at the sight of so terrible an expiation—his sufferings were so great, indeed, that a bloody sweat issued forth from all the pores of his sacred body. ... [The angels tried to console him.] For one instant there appeared to be, as it were, a struggle between the mercy and justice of God and that love which was sacrificing itself.

Several times I heard him exclaim: “O my Father, can I possibly suffer for so ungrateful a race? O my Father, if this chalice may not pass from me, but I must drink it, thy will be done.” [Blessed Anne Catherine sees the Adorable Sacrament profaned, churches deserted and priests despised.] ... I saw the Church as the body of Christ, as all these bands of men who were separating themselves from the Church mangled and tore off whole pieces of his living flesh. ... I beheld whole nations thus snatched out of his bosom, and deprived of any participation in the treasure of graces left to the Church. ... Alas, it was as though Jesus himself had been torn into a thousand pieces. (Emmerich, Pgs. 103-115.)

A second time Jesus returned to his apostles and found them asleep. He was barely recognizable or able to stand. As the apostles arose and supported him in their arms, He told them that the next day he should be put to death, that in one hour's time he should be seized, led before a tribunal, maltreated, scourged, and finally put to a most cruel death. He asked them to console his Mother and Magdalen. James and John then helped Jesus back to the grotto. (Emmerich, Pg. 116.) Mary, impatient to receive word about Jesus went to the Valley of Josaphat. Overwhelmed with sorrow she stretched her arms toward Mount Olivet as if to wipe Jesus' face. Rays went to and fro between Jesus and Mary in spiritual communication. Then Blessed Anne saw the abyss open before Jesus who had a vision of the first part of Limbo where Adam and Eve, the patriarchs, prophets, and just men, the parents of his Mother, and John the Baptist, were awaiting his arrival with such intense longing. This vision strengthened and encouraged Him, for He knew His death would free them from this prison of waiting. While Jesus looked upon the saints of antiquity with deep emotion, the angels showed him all the saints of future ages who would join their sufferings with His and be united to His heavenly Father. **Most beautiful and consoling was this vision, in which he beheld salvation and sanctification flowing forth in ceaseless streams from the fountain of redemption opened by his death.** (Emmerich, Pgs. 116-118.)

On May 29, 1954, Jesus spoke to Sister Mildred Neuzil regarding man's incessant refusal to accept His love, the ingratitude for all He had suffered for our redemption.

“My Heart beats with compassion for the sorrows of man. Oh, how gladly would I help him bear the weight of his terrible cross, fashioned, for the most part, by his own guilt! But alas, he will have none of My help. So I am forced to stand by the side of the road and watch him struggle hopelessly in his agony. Oh, the pride of souls! How they resist My grace!”

(Sister Mildred Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 5, 33.)

In a letter to her spiritual director, Sister Mildred describes her share in Christ's agony as He gave her a sip from the chalice of His suffering.

I had awakened after a time and was about to get up when I fell into one of those trance-like conditions of which I already spoke to you about. The crucifix appeared before me, drawing closer and closer. I knelt down, my heart crying out in sorrow and love. He was very near, so near that I saw the Blood streaming down His crucified and pain-wracked body. On His Face was a look of internal pain and sorrow. I offered myself to Him with all the love of my heart. Then He spoke these words to me: "I cannot accept your gift unless you are wholly united to me and to My sufferings." At these words I was overwhelmed with grief. Then the Lord proceeded to lead me upon the road of suffering. Never, dear Father, have I ever experienced anything so terrible, so heartrending, so full of bitterness. I was filled with such anguish and agony that every part of my soul and body seemed to share in it. I could not kneel upright. A heavy weight seemed to be pressing me down to the ground. The agony was becoming unbearable. With both hands I covered my face, while the intense suffering forced the tears from my eyes. I felt like I was being crushed under a mountain of grief. There was no part of me that this agony did not penetrate. If it had lasted a moment longer I'm sure I would have died. Oh if I could only tell you how it really was. When I awoke I was shivering and trembling all over. Oh the horror of sin, if only we fully realized it. Our Lord only let me taste a very tiny drop of the bitter drink in His chalice of suffering. Yet this tiny drop almost killed me. That is true, Father, I could not have endured it a second longer.

What if Jesus asked us to sip from the chalice of His suffering?

"May I be able to rest on Thy Heart to obtain comfort in the sufferings of life. May my spirit have no other desire but to live at Thy side in the Garden and unite itself to the pains of Thy Heart. May my soul be inebriated with Thy Blood and feed itself with the bread of Thy sufferings. Amen." (Prayer of Padre Pio)

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