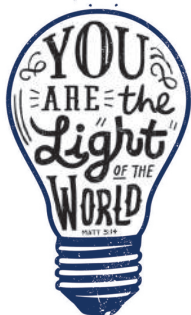


“The earth will not continue to offer its harvest, except with faithful stewardship.”

St. John Paul II



The cross was a punishment that was used by the Romans for common criminals and for anyone who opposed the Roman laws. The disciples could not accept that Jesus uses this metaphor. They must have been frightened that they are being asked by Jesus to “travel” that tragic road. As Christians, aren’t we too also frightened as to how we must carry our cross in following Jesus?

The consolation we receive, however, comes when Jesus asks his disciples “*who do people say I am?*”. An inspired Peter answers eloquently to profess that Jesus is the Christ. He had seen enough to know the truth about Jesus - the healings, the raising of the dead, the calming of the sea and numerous other miracles. Yet, just when Peter and the other disciples expect Christ to ‘save’ them, Jesus asks them to carry their cross and follow him. What an ironic twist to this saga - **a God who seems to succumb to weakness, lowliness and to meekness rather than to power and glory.**

The “cross” that you and I carry happens in the daily suffering and struggles of life. The more we endure these struggles with hope and courage, the more our faith increases. If there is no suffering, we may not experience the sacrifice, and if there is no sacrifice, there may simply be no love. Faith, hope and love - these are the virtues that melt and mould us into becoming Christ-like.

Take heart brothers and sisters, the reward of the cross is the glorious resurrection that leads us to life everlasting, a life only Christ can give. And this is made possible through our very suffering, our sacrifice and our love for God and our neighbour.

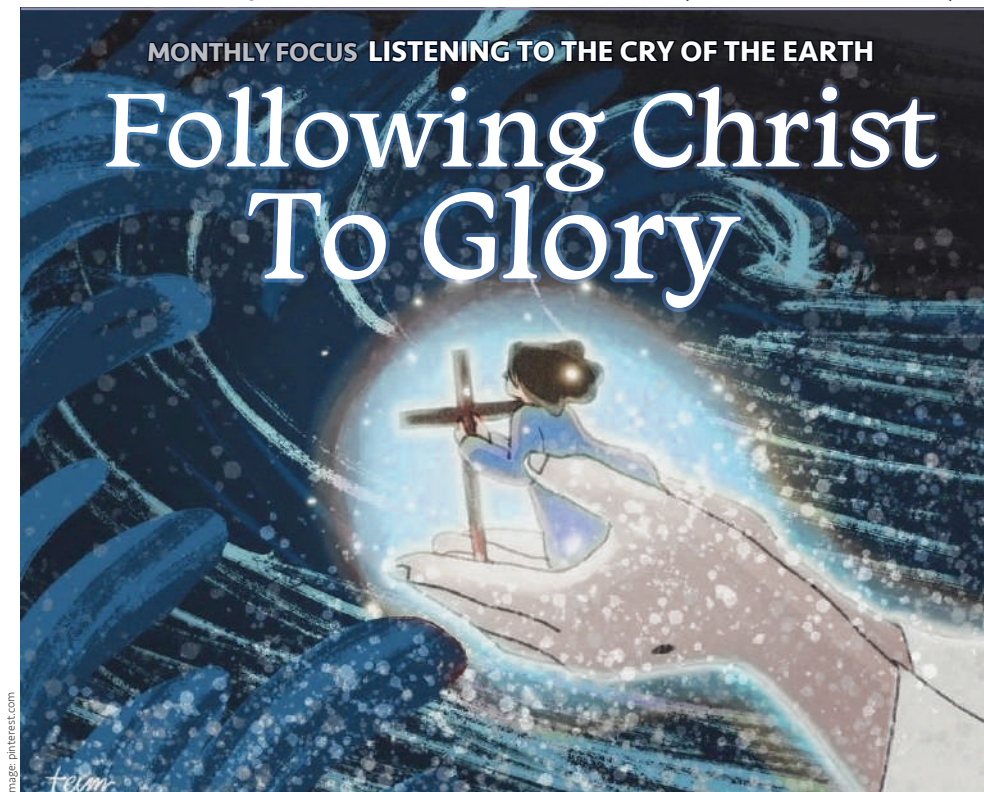
May we carry our cross and follow Jesus daily. ✦

newbee

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF
COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).

MONTHLY FOCUS LISTENING TO THE CRY OF THE EARTH

Following Christ To Glory



The Lord imparts a difficult secret to life. “*If anyone would come after me let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me*”. It is as if the Lord asks us to choose vulnerability and love for others over the “easier” road of comfort and self-preservation.

Let us recall that Jesus uses the metaphor of the “cross” just after he tells the disciples about how he will be put to death and will rise to life.

SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Isaiah 50: 5-9

Psalms 114: 1-6, 8-9

James 2: 14-18

Mark 8: 27-35