

Daily Homily
Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time, Friday
Our Lady of Sorrows
Memorial
15 September 2023
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Yesterdays' feast, The Exultation of the Cross and today's Memorial, Our Lady of Sorrows... two of the most powerful feasts that we celebrate in the Church. They go hand in hand. That's why we celebrate them back to back.

Yesterday was called the Exultation of the Cross... not the sadness of the Cross, not the suffering of the Cross, not the downer of the Cross but the exultation. Why? Ask any saint, especially any martyr, what helped them to grow in holiness? They will almost always respond. "I grew the most in holiness through my suffering."

This is true, right? It's in the challenges, the trials, the tensions of life, and the suffering where something about us is exposed and laid vulnerable that doesn't happen at any other time. It's in those moments that

- marriages are actually strengthened,
- that what it means to be Jesus' priest is expressed more clearly,
- that what it means to be human is told,
- and how we relate to each other is expressed more affectionately and deeply through compassion.

It's especially through suffering that we grow the most. Jesus suffering on the cross exposes and lays vulnerable all of that... the extent and the depth and the magnitude of God's love for us is exposed and laid vulnerable most especially on the cross.

Today's feast, Our Lady of Sorrows. Today proclaims to us: We aren't alone. We are given a companion, a Mother actually... because moms especially know about suffering and how to suffer with the ones they love... today we are given Mother Mary. She stands with us while we stand under the cross and she stands with us even when we are on our cross. She is there as Mother... knowing what to do, knowing what to say, knowing how to act, knowing what we need.

God knows suffering isn't easy. We certainly shouldn't go looking for it. It will most certainly find us though. And when it does, we are never alone. God gives us everything we need, including a Mother with all of her Motherly care.

Our Lady of Sorrows... pray for us.