

March 26, 2020

Dear Parish Members of Christ on the Mountain,

Today I was reading a book Grace Notes by Philip Yancey. In a section of the book titled "Invisible Impact," Yancey talks about the natural tendency to hope for rewards from God instead of the expectation God has for us to suffer. Suffering is part of the work God has given us. Scripture tells us that Christ who suffered for us is our example. We are to follow in his foot-steps. Saint Paul speaks of sharing in Christ's suffering and hoping to fill up what is lacking in this suffering. When we speak of redemptive suffering in the church we speak of this kind of suffering we are all called to share in.

Harry Boer was a chaplain in World War II and he spent the final days of that war with the marines in the Pacific Theater. Boer says, "The Second Division saw much action, with great losses. Yet I never met an enlisted man or an officer who doubted for a moment the outcome of the war. Nor did I ever meet a marine who asked why, if victory was so sure, we couldn't have it immediately. It was just a question of slogging through till the enemy gave up." I like this image of slogging through till the enemy gives up. I am going to use it as a mantra for my day, slogging through, with Christ, until the enemy gives up.

We who desire to know Christ and the power of his resurrection must have a fellowship of sharing in his sufferings. We will defeat the enemy by slogging through the battle with Christ and then we will experience the Ecstasy of the risen.

In His Love and Power,

Fr. David