

Pilgrim notes



Gethsemane As Liminal Space

...“Naked I came into this world and naked I leave it again.” We are born alone, without possessing anything: clothing, a language, the capacity to take care of ourselves, achievements, trophies, degrees, security, a family, a spouse, a friend, a reputation, a job, a house, a soul mate. When we exit the planet, we will be like that again, alone and naked. But it’s precisely that nakedness, helplessness, and vulnerability that makes for liminal space, space within which God can give us something new, beyond what we already have.

There are times when we sense this, sense its necessity, and sense too that one day, perhaps soon, we will, like Jesus in the Garden, have to make peace with the fact that we are soon to exit this life, alone, but for our hope in God. That’s Gethsemane, the place and the experience.

Our own prayer there, I suspect, will be less about necessity than about timing: “Lord, let this cup be delayed! Not yet! I know it’s inevitable, but just give me more time, more years, more experience, more life first!”

To feel that way is understandable and, if we’re young, even a sign of health. Nobody should want to die or want to give up the good things of this life. But Gethsemane awaits us all. Most of us, however, will not enter this garden of liminal space voluntarily, as did Jesus (“Nobody takes my life, I give it up freely!”). Most of us will enter it by conscription, but just as really, on that day when a doctor tells us we have terminal cancer or we suffer a heart attack or something else irretrievably and forever alters our lives.

When that does happen, and it will happen one way or the other to all of us, it’s helpful to know that we’re in liminal space, inside a new womb, undergoing a new gestation, waiting for new birth—and that it’s okay to sweat a little blood, ask God some questions, and feel resistance in every cell of our being.

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.

Do I Welcome Jesus Into My Heart?

Am I ready to surrender my life to Him during this Holy Week and welcome him into all areas of my life as my Lord and Savior, singing “hosanna?” Today, we receive palm branches at the Divine Liturgy. Let us take them to our homes and place them somewhere where we can always see them. Let the palms remind us that Christ is the king of our families, that Christ is the king of our hearts, that Christ is the only true answer to our quest for happiness and meaning in our lives. And if we do proclaim Christ as our king, let us try to make time for Him in our daily life; let us be reminded that He is the one with whom we will be spending eternity. Let us be reminded further that our careers, our education, our finances, our homes, all of the basic material needs in our lives are only temporary. Let us prioritize and place Christ the king as the primary concern in our lives. It is only when we have done this that we will find true peace and happiness in our confused and complex world.

Fr. Anthony Kadavil



Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs

Auriesville, NY
March 28, 2010



Easter Services

The annual Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 4th at 6:30 am in the Visitor Center. The Mass on Easter Sunday will be at 11:30 am also in the Visitor Center. For more information, call Fr. Peter Murray at 518 853-3033 ext 222. Come celebrate Easter with fellow pilgrims at our beautiful Shrine!

Visit our Website
www.MartyrShrine.org

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