



THE STORY UP TO NOW  
By the Reverend Gerald T. Brennan

Betrayed by Judas, one of his own Apostles, Jesus Christ is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane and brought before Caiaphas, the High Priest of Jerusalem. Caiaphas and the other chief leaders of the Jews quickly condemn him to death. Early on Friday morning they bring Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, whose permission must be obtained before the death sentence can be carried out. After questioning Jesus, Pilate decides that He is innocent and tries to save Him. Guided by Caiaphas, the Jews reject every attempt of Pilate to prevent the death of Christ. Failing in his attempts to save Christ, Pilate continues to plead for the Prisoner's freedom but the Jews only cry more strongly, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

VII—Hail King!

The sorrowful Christ listens to the crowd-calling for His death. He is used to crowds. For three years, He has walked among these men doing good—healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead to life. Everywhere during these three years, people have followed after Him. They saw Him prove by His miracles that He is God. Many times they were ready to offer Him a ruler's crown. Only a few days ago they were ready to set Him upon the throne of a king!

Things have changed suddenly on this Friday morning. Today, the crowd surrounding Jesus is mean and hateful. Today, men who once cheered Him, forget His many kind deeds and words of love. Now the crowd hates His Hero and wishes to raise Him upon a criminal's cross.

Christ is led into the courtyard of the palace. His cloak is taken off and He is tied to a post. At a signal from the guards, the crowd moves back leaving plenty of space, and four Roman soldiers move forward. Each soldier holds a short wooden club to which are fastened several pieces of leather. On the end of each strip of leather is a small piece of lead.

Jesus looks at the soldiers and glances at their whips. He knows what is coming. In His heart He prays for the soldiers.

Two of Pilate's guards move closer to Christ. Crudely, they raise their arms, they lash their whips upon the bare back of Christ. They strike each blow with all their power and strength so that the leaden ends of their whips cut deeply into the Prisoner's flesh. Soon Christ's body is flaming red and covered with cuts. The blood from His wounds trickles to the ground. When the soldiers tire, two more soldiers take their places.

This whipping lasts for some minutes. The law allows only a certain number of blows upon a man condemned to death, but the Roman soldiers pay no attention to the law in their dealings with Christ. Each blow strikes with deadly force upon the Prisoner who has no friends at Pilate's palace.

Jesus stands at the post and suffers the blows in silence. Never once does He cry out against His enemies or beg for mercy. He knows that His Father in Heaven is watching. Christ is suffering for the sins of the world. Already He has taught men how to live. Now He teaches them how to suffer.

Man of Sorrows  
At last the Roman soldiers finish their cruel work. They and wear, they throw down their whips. How does Jesus live after such torturous beating? The soldiers wonder. They have seen men die under such a beating.

Jesus is now truly a Man of Sorrows. He is weak, very weak. Somehow He manages to remain on His feet. Red blood covers His face and flows freely from His open wounds and His whole body aches with pain. And this only the beginning of His sufferings. There is still the Cross!

Having suffered the fierce punishment of the Roman lash, Jesus is led again into the hall of Pilate's palace. The Roman soldiers glare at Christ, their eyes staring in mockery at this suffering Christ. His flesh is torn to shreds. His body is drenched with blood. His head is bowed in weakness.

Can this be the Man who claims to be a King? Can this Prisoner be the King of the Jews? The soldiers laugh and jeer at the thought. Then they see a chance for more cruel sport. A king should wear a royal robe. A king should carry a scepter in his hand as a sign of his kingship. The Jews have refused to make Christ their King but the Roman soldiers will make Him the King of the Jews here in the Palace of the Roman Gov-

He is the Son of God!

Pilate Alarmed  
The Son of God! Jesus is the Son of God! This Prisoner in God's thought strikes new fear into Pilate's heart. All morning his mind has been racked by fear of the Emperor, fear of Caiaphas, fear of the Jews. Now comes fear of God!

The frightened Pilate must have one more word alone with Jesus. Fearful and ashamed, the Governor brings the Prisoner into the hall of the Palace.

A Crown of Thorns

One soldier brings forth a scarlet cloak. This is Christ's royal robe. Now comes the crown. Heavy thorns are quickly twisted into a crown. This is placed on the head of Jesus and the sharp thorns press painfully into His brow. Then a common reed is placed in His hand. This is meant to be His scepter. The soldiers smile and think of their Emperor, Caesar who carries a scepter of gold.

The Romans have not yet completed their evil joke. Kings should be given worship and homage. So they honor Jesus with cowardly blows on the face. They spit on Him. They mock Him.

"Hail, King of the Jews!" The Roman jeer and bow their knees in mockery before Jesus. "Hail, King of the Jews!" The soldiers of the Jews jeer and bow their knees before Jesus. "Hail, King of the Jews!" The soldiers of the Jews jeer and bow their knees before Jesus.

These soldiers of Rome are pagans. They do not believe in the true God. They know that they insult the Son of God. They mock Him as a King. They do not know that He truly is the King of Heaven and Earth.

These pagan warriors of Rome jeer at Christ. They do not know that one day His Name will be the greatest name in their proud city of Rome and all the world.

But what of Caiaphas and the chief leaders of the Jews? Are they blind to this Christ who is now a Man of Sorrows? Under the blows and the blood and the bruises, do they not see who Christ really is?

Long ago as a boy, Caiaphas had learned about the Saviour of the world. He had studied the words of Isaiah, the prophet. Long before this day, Isaiah foretold how Christ would be hated by men. How He would be a Man of Sorrows. Isaiah told how the Saviour of the World would be wounded, bruised and put to death.

All these things Caiaphas and the leaders of the Jews know, but now they forget. Today, they kill the Man of Sorrows!

VIII—Caesar Wins

No one has tried to save Jesus from the cruel hands of the soldiers. Not even Pilate.

But the Governor is unhappy, worried and afraid. This Pilate still believes, but he has allowed Christ to suffer. His own soldiers punished Christ and he did nothing to stop them.

Within His Palace, Pilate now meets the Man of Sorrows face to face. Pilate stares at the swollen face, the crown of thorns, and the scarlet cloak partly hiding the wounded body.

The sight of the wounded Christ stirs the cold heart of the Roman Governor. Will it also soften the angry hearts of the Jews? Will Christ's enemies be content now? Pilate hopes.

Once again he brings Christ before the Jews and he scans their faces for some sign of a change of heart. He reads none. "Look at this Man!" he cries in a voice that almost pleads for the crowd to have pity. The crowd, however, has no pity.

"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" they call back to the Roman Governor.

Jews Turn Dead Ear

Leaving Jesus in the palace, Pilate returns to the crowd standing outside. Once again, he argues with the Jews and tries to win mercy for Christ. But the Jews have made up their minds. They will not listen. They know that they have Pilate trapped.

"If you free this Man," they warn Pilate, "you are no friend of Caesar's!"

Honor Medal for Ex-Altar Boy

Highest U. S. Award Goes to Sicin Hero  
Washington, (NC) — A former altar boy at Sacred Heart Church, North Quincy, Mass., who gave his life deliberately to save 15 of his fellow Marines, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously here on the anniversary of his death on Two Jims' bloody Hill 952.

The medal was received for Gunnery Sgt. William Gary Walsh, U. S. M. C. R., from Secretary of the Navy James G. Forrestal, by the sergeant's widow, of Dorchester, Mass.

The citation described Sgt. Walsh's actions leading his assault platoon against the fury of Japanese machine guns and hand grenades. It stated: "When one of his surviving men, huddled together in a small trench, Gunnery Sergeant Walsh in a final valiant act of complete self-sacrifice, instantly threw himself upon the deadly bomb, absorbing with his own body the full and terrific force of the explosion through his extraordinary faith and inspiring valor in the face of almost certain death, he saved his comrades from injury and possible loss of life and enabled his company to seize and hold this vital enemy position."

Swiss, Switzerland — (NC) — His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Tien, Vicar Apostolic of Tientsin, China, was honored at an official reception at the Catholic University of Freiburg on his visit to Switzerland.

Plate fears the anger of Caesar. He will not risk himself anymore. He orders the soldiers to bring Jesus before the crowd.

"Look at your King!" he says when Jesus appears again.

The crowd looks at Christ with his crown of thorns. His robe and His naked face. They see a Man who has been half-beaten to death, but they have no pity, no mercy.

"Away with Him!" they cry. "Crucify Him!"

The Roman Governor waits for silence. "Shall I crucify your warning works?"

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King!" he sneers angrily at the crowd. This time Caiaphas and the leaders of the Jews step forth to answer Pilate.

Earlier this morning he had forced the Jews to choose between Christ and Barabbas. To his surprise they had chosen Barabbas. Now the Jews have the upper hand. They are forcing Pilate to choose between the Man of Sorrows and the Emperor of Rome. Because he is a coward, Pilate must choose the Emperor. Caiaphas and the Jews know that they have won at last. But they wait for Pilate to give the final command which will send Jesus to death.

Pilate looks at Jesus and hesitates before speaking. Then the Governor speaks quickly as if he were ashamed of his own voice. "You must go to the cross!" (Continued next week)

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Sodality of Our Lady  
A Growing Force  
By REV. MARY S. MCGEE  
Diocesan Director for Sodality

Recently I witnessed a solemn High Mass, presided over by our Most Reverend Bishop, at which a group of unmarried men assembled. These young men, he readily returned from the rough men and hectors of war, showed about the sanctuary with undiminished reverence. Others, who had abandoned, were deeply moved by it all and remarking afterwards about the effect which the reverent attitude of these men had left upon them. It came to me suddenly that we all were impressed by their reverence because of its unassuming.

Reverence, we must admit, is a growing rarity in the world. Reverence is a thoughtful attitude of mind, and thoughtfulness is becoming somewhat uncommon. It implies submission, a humble spirit of mind, and these things don't fit in too well with the self-expressive spirit of our time.

Reverence Needed  
Yes, to be reverent toward holy things is a precious quality in any person of good character and unbalanced mind. A man, working in reverence, looks the very essence of manhood. It is the way of our age to question everything, to make free even with the holiest things. A recent column in one of our dailies on the life of our great statesman offers an excellent example of this. The lack of reverence in the air. We must counter-act that spirit by cultivating in our Sodality the Christian virtue of reverence.

The nearer to God the things of this world come, the more reverence we owe them. Even inanimate things partake of the holiness of God when they are connected intimately with His service. We revere the church above all buildings, the sacred vestments more than ordinary clothing, the chalice more than any everyday silver.

But it is even more so in regard to persons. Those who bear the burden of the authority and dignity of God's service and who thus come nearer to Him. The priest, the Bishop, the Pope, all these are honored above others and in a degree comparable with their nearness in dignity to Christ Himself.

Atop the Massacre  
Now, since this is the way to measure reverence, whom then should we reverence more than the Blessed Mother, who is nearer than all other creatures to the

Word made flesh? In dignity, in honor, in reverence, she is the greatest of all creatures. Above all primarily dignity, above the created order, above even the angelic spirits, we stand by the throne of God. There, the most pure Virgin brought God on a planet to reveal and hence, far above the power of Lucifer and his agents, she met their heathen love, she had.

To realize the reverence due to Mary, you need only look at the manger scene at Bethlehem. That simple scene is in itself a companion of the amazing and discussion of Almighty God in laying aside the splendors of His

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"The Man of Sorrows!"

tries to think, Who is this Prisoner? Is He only a Poor Man from Galilee? Is He from Heaven? Is this Jesus only another trouble-maker? Or is He the Son of God?

Who is this Prisoner who stands so silently before Him? Pilate asks questions but Jesus remains silent.

"Don't you know," asks the worried Governor, "that I have the power to crucify you? Don't you know that I have the power to set you free?"

Now Jesus has an answer. His sad and swollen eyes look straight into the fearful eyes of the Roman ruler.

"You would not have any power against Me, unless it were given to you by God. He who gave Me up to you is guilty of the greater sin."

Christ's answer only frightens Pilate all the more. He cannot understand the strange Prisoner who stands before Him. Already Jesus has been punished and is now in danger of death, yet He does not try to defend Himself. Other prisoners beg for mercy, but this Man is calm, unafraid.

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