

Jesus motivated by love

As we begin the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, I offer a passage from Anthony Padovano from his book *Who Is Christ?* I was reminded of the passage, which I came across several years ago, by Father Mike Bausch who used it in a prayer he led just last week. I find it a simply stated interpretation of the events that we commemorate these days.



Patricia Schoelles, SSJ

The Moral Life

life everlasting.

For this week, I'll leave the column just this short. I hope the clarity of these words are helpful for you as they have been for me:

"Our age of affluence strives to avoid pain and discomfort at all costs.

"We can begin by asking ourselves what meaning the cross has for an age of affluence.

"I do not think that the fundamental message of the cross is suffering.

"Christ does not suffer because suffering is in itself a value, but because love without restraint requires suffering.

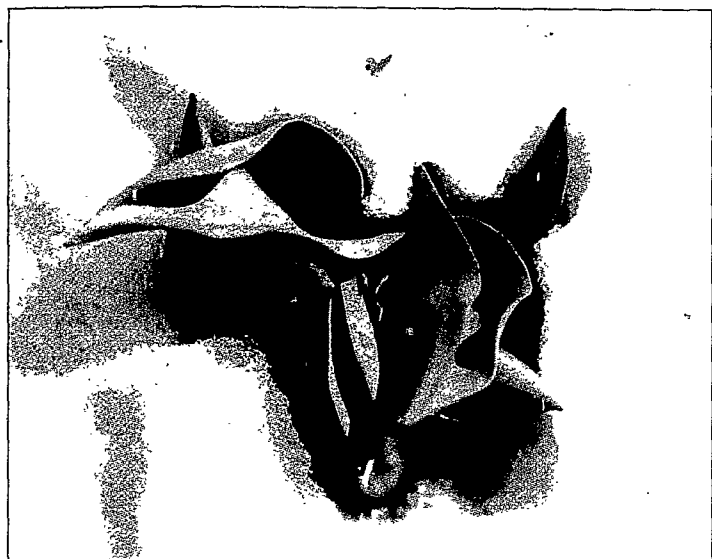
"It is not a love for suffering which Christ reveals, but a love which prevails in suffering.

"It is not the physical death of Jesus which is redemptive but the love of Jesus for us even unto death.

"If the fundamental message of the cross is not suffering but absolute and communicative love, then the cross speaks compellingly to an age of affluence.

"It reminds us that Christianity is not a choice of suffering or of deprivation but the choice of a new type of love."

Sister Schoelles is president of St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

MORE LETTERS

civilians "nearly half of which are children." So wrote Pastoral Associate Judith of Holy Trinity Church in Webster April 3.

Yet it is clear that coalition forces have been very careful to target military forces and avoid civilian casualties.

There was also the charge that embargo was responsible for the starvation of children and civilians in Iraq. This too turned out to be a bogus claim as advancing coalition forces uncovered warehouses of food that was rotting. Food that Saddam withheld from his people.

Over the years Saddam Hussein has killed some 250,000 Iraqis, as well as many Kurds in Northern Iraq.

President Bush realized that the removal of Saddam was the only way to prevent further loss of life.

I believe he was right.

Robert Bart
Ithaca

Web site led man home

To the editor:

My name is Armando Zona. St. Anthony's was my church and school. I grew up in that area and I graduated from St. Anthony's in 1976. I am now living in Italy, and it was great to see your Web site. It brought back many memories. I will keep in touch. God bless you all.

Armando Zona
Via Ancona N. 8
Rome, Italy

Impressed by welcome at city parishes

To the editor:

After an especially uplifting experience at Mass recently, a recurring feeling compels us to share our thoughts with other readers. We attended the celebration of Celtic Spirituality and St. Brigid on Sunday, March 23, at St. Monica's. From the moment we were greeted at the church door to the final socialization at the refreshment tables, we sensed a comfortable, warm, spirit-filled atmosphere.

This is not the first time this has happened to us. Previously we have experienced the same sense of community at celebrations at St. Mary's (downtown cluster), Sacred Heart (10th ward cluster) and St. Michael's on Clinton Ave. These congregations are small and struggle financially to minister to diverse populations. At the same time they impart to those attending a caring and sharing that defies description.

We are active participants in our own large, suburban parish. But these special opportunities to share parish experiences in the city are very positive proof that the inner-city Catholic churches play a necessary role in the life of Rochester residents.

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Ryan
Southridge Drive
Rochester

Laity expected to speak out

During these trying days, I often wonder how many Catholics realize that they have a prophetic role to play in rectifying things.

After Vatican II, the laity's prophetic role was often the center of attention. In the council's Constitution on the Church, we read: "Christ gave [the laity] understanding of the faith and the grace of speech so that the power of the Gospel might shine forth in their daily social and family life."

The laity, like the prophets, are expected to read our difficult times and to speak out.

One of the first great prophets, Moses, helps us to



Father Eugene Hemrick

Making a Difference

define the essence of the laity's prophetic role. We see him ascending Mt. Sinai to speak to God and then descending to speak to his people about what he heard. Understanding God's mind and promulgating it to those who need to hear of it is of the

essence for a prophet.

When we consider this role and apply it to ourselves — blessed through baptism with a prophetic calling — we realize our responsibilities are awesome.

As Moses spoke with God, so too must we pray more than ever to see God's will in these confusing times.

As Moses abhorred injustice, so too must we abhor the injustices done to defenseless people by the Iraq conflict.

And, as the prophets always ended with a note of hope, so, too, must we.

Father Hemrick is a Catholic News Service columnist.

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Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions expressed.

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Letters Policy