

Reflection Friday Week 12 Sacred Heart of Jesus 2022

The heart of today's feast, the heart of Jesus, is best found on the *Cross which is a unique axis in time. It is where time and timelessness intersect. Past, present, and future pain were all physically carried up the Hill of Calvary in this Cross. This darkness is carried up the hill so that it could face the new dawn of Resurrection and become transfigured. In essence, the Cross and the Resurrection are one thing. They are not subsequent to each other. The Resurrection is the inner light hidden at the heart of darkness in the Cross. On Easter morning, this light explodes onto the world, a mystery expressed in the Eucharist.*

The Eucharist is fascinating; it embraces Calvary and Resurrection as one. In Christian terms, there is no way to light or glory except through the sore ground under the dark weight of the Cross. The Cross is a lonely forsaken symbol for Good Friday is always deeply lonesome. There is an eerie and disturbing sadness at the heart of this day. On Good Friday, the pain of the world is returning to the Cross, awaiting transfiguration again.

The promise to each of us is that we will never be called to walk the lonely path of suffering without seeing the footprints ahead of us which lead eventually over the brow of the hill where Resurrection awaits. Behind the darkness of suffering, a subtle brightening often manifests itself. Philippe Jaccottet writes: "Love, like fire, can only reveal its brightness in the failure and the beauty of burnt wood." There is consolation and transfiguration here. The fires of suffering are disclosures of love. It is the nature of the lover to suffer. The marks and wounds that suffering leave on us are eventually places of beauty. This is the deep beauty of soul where limitation and damage, rather than the remaining forces that cripple, are revealed as transfiguration. John O'Donohue, **Eternal Echoes**

What did the cardiac surgeon say when told the transplanted organ was taken to his home instead of the hospital? **Home is where the heart is.**