

Reflection Thursday Week 23 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 2023

In **Exalting the Cross** we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race. It shows that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. Christianity springs from God's direct intervention in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorise and theologise all we like; but all our theorising and theologising are nothing without the history on which they are based. Take away that history – take away the Cross – and Christianity is a nonsense.

Here is a reflection on the Cross by Macrina Wiederkehr osb

On Lent and Crosses

The acting out of love to the extent of dying on a cross is a. My limited ability to love stands embarrassed at such extravagance. My daily attempt falls short of my dreams. I carry my crosses carefully, trying to make sure they don't take too much out of me.

I always leave a little pink around the edges of my crosses. I cannot bear unpleasant things. I honestly don't know how Jesus did it! I can hardly accept WHY he did it. The *why he did it* always makes me feel guilty about the pink around the edges. Being so young in my faith. It is hard not to cheat a little and search for soft, easy, pretty crosses.

O God, help me take away all the clutter with which I decorate my crosses, with all the ways I try to camouflage your death and dying because my faith has not grown enough and to look at death as it really is: an emptiness that brings me face to face with LIFE.

O God, Your love has opened my eyes. It is my own pink-edged crosses that have broken my heart. But your cross has saved me!