



Focus on Religious Freedom

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Following Jesus' Example... Accepting Our Crosses

Christ knew the suffering and death he was to endure for the salvation of mankind. He knew the cross was his to accept or reject.

"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again." – Mark 8:31

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." – Luke 22:42

"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." – John 10:18

As we remember and consecrate the suffering and death of Our Lord and his resurrection from the dead this Easter Sunday, we are reminded that we are expected to take up the crosses in our lives if we are to be numbered among the followers of Christ.

And to the disciples Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." - Matthew 16:24

Sometimes we fail to recognize the crosses before us and consider difficult situations to be "someone else's problem"... or something that will "work its way out"... or something that is "none of my business"...or something where "my actions would not make a real difference."

Some of the crosses too often ignored are the burdens of protecting and preserving religious freedom, the rights of conscience, in America whose citizens have been exceptionally blessed with a Constitution defending their right to choose their faith and practice it openly. It is an obligation of each of us to learn the truth of religious freedom, its benefits and its enemies so that we may answer to Our Lord that we preserved his gift for ages and millions yet unborn. Find educational information at www.CatholicsforFreedomofReligion.org www.cffor.org

The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

Translator: Francis Pott, 1861