



Day Twenty-Four

Awakening to God's Presence

Jesus himself told us that
his way of life can be reduced to three things:
renouncing ourselves,
taking up the cross,
and walking in his footsteps.
Following Jesus assures us of life with God.
The cross will come for each of us, and we will have to carry it.
If we follow Jesus and accept the cross,
we will have life.
True life is found in the carrying of this cross,
and nowhere else.
The choice is ours.
We can take up the cross,
but we must also actually carry it,
and carry it courageously.
To drag it along or abandon it
once we begin or after we accept it,
closes us to the graces it holds for us.
We work for holiness and eternal life
by walking the route that Jesus took
on the way to glory and union with God.
This route becomes our own,
and we will find it in our daily lives.
Are we afraid of the struggle?
If we fear it,
we delay coming to the holiness
we so desire and seek.
We turn away from the life promised to us.
The choice is before us.
Will we renounce ourselves, carry our cross, and follow Jesus?
There is the way to life.

Living by God's Grace

Seek life in the crosses that come.

Acknowledging God's Gifts

May this night's rest
revive within me
the courage and confidence
to carry the crosses
I bear in life.
Lord, I forgive those
who may have been the source
of my crosses this day.
Forgive me for those times
I was a cross to them.
With tomorrow's dawn
will come crosses,
some familiar and some unknown.
Be with me in my efforts
to carry them and learn from them.
I want to grow from the crosses I carry.
For this day, thank you.
Bless this night.
May tomorrow be a fresh beginning.

Praying from the Heart of Holy Cross Spirituality by Joel Giallanza, C.S.C. is used by permission of Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved. Founded in 1865, Ave Maria Press, Inc. is a ministry of the United States Province of Holy Cross. To learn more about our publishing or to purchase a copy of this book, please visit their website: www.avemariapress.com.