



Day Twenty-Five

Awakening to God's Presence

Jesus said, "Take up your cross."
What is your cross?
It is many things.
A cross might be the ups and downs of our desires,
our unexamined preferences and expectations.
It can be a materialism that captivates us
with passing things so that we forget eternal truths.
Personal weaknesses can also become a cross.
It's easy to become discouraged, exaggerating
the difficulty of overcoming these weaknesses.
All of this can be a cross.
Human life is like a great Way of the Cross.
We don't have to visit a church
to run through the different stations.
This Way of the Cross is everywhere.
We travel it every day,
even when we are not aware of it.
What can we say to all this?
Simply that there is no other way to heaven.
The cross has its own advantages.
When we carry our crosses,
whatever they may be,
we renounce ourselves.
Even more, we will follow Jesus.
In that following,
we are made holy.
We move ever closer to union with God.
Shouldn't we want to be like the one we follow?
What is your cross?
It is the way to new life.

Living by God's Grace

Carry the cross; carry your cross.

Acknowledging God's Gifts

May this night's rest
give me the courage
to look within myself
for the cross, the cross meant for me.
I pray for the conviction
to carry the cross I find,
trusting that it can be good for me.
Make up with your grace, Lord,
for any times today
when I avoided the cross
and the transformation it held.
Let me take tomorrow's crosses
without fear or hesitation,
confident that you can draw good from them,
and that they can be blessings for me.
I want to accept whatever crosses come.
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.