

## PASTOR'S CORNER



*Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*

If we are going to be Jesus' disciples, he wants us to go all in. He doesn't ask for much, just everything. He's using an Aramaic figure of speech to express it, but the meaning is clear: We need to love Jesus above any earthly relationship, above even our own authority over our lives, and far above any material possessions that may come and go; and we need to make sure we're prepared for all of this.

If we are going to be his disciples we are going to have to build a tower of humility, if we are going to be his disciples we are going to have to go through our project of conversion: and we need to make sure we've got the zeal to do it – to really press forward and through to completion. That project, that tower, may take our whole lives to build: are we prepared to *carry our own cross* daily? Or will we simply lay the foundations and grow weary of conversion?

If we are going to be his disciples we are going to have to do battle against sin and vice in our life – and we are not well matched in the battle. Indeed, for every virtue there are twice as many vices to fight against. We need to make sure we have the courage to do it – or we'll just wind up *asking for peace terms* with our sins, giving up before the fight has begun.

Jesus calls us to a detachment out of love – a detachment he modeled in his life, becoming obedient even unto death, death on a cross. He goes one step further in as he offers himself to us in the Eucharist: emptying himself even of any semblance of humanity – submitting himself entirely to us to become our very food and drink. May the Eucharist always be for us a source of the zeal we need to continue our conversion; may it be a source of the courage we need to fight our spiritual battles; and may it be a reminder of just how much Jesus loves us that we may respond in love with detachment from all things, carrying our own cross and following after him.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*