

## The Cross of My Life!

A story was told of a man who constantly complained of the challenges and difficulties he faced in his life and blamed God for all his crosses. Then, one day he had a dream, and, in the dream, he found himself in a room with different crosses representing the challenges people face in their lives. He was asked to select one of the crosses as an alternative to the one he was carrying. He moved around the room and found out that all the crosses were very heavy, and the only one he thought was less heavy was the one that represented the cross of his life. The story reminds us that every one of us has a cross. Thus, the invitation to know the cross of our lives and take it and follow Jesus.

Jesus in today's Gospel (Luke 14:25-23) reminds us, "*Whoever does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.*" The act of discipleship requires us follow Jesus in season and out season, in bad and good times. Jesus wants us to have the total commitment to being his disciple, being mindful of the challenges that go with that total commitment. Life, as we know, is never a bed of roses and every day has its trouble. These troubles come to us through challenges, difficulties, and disappointments life gives us, either directly or indirectly. The actual test of our faith comes during the cross of our life.

The crosses of our life come in different ways- spiritual, emotional, or physical. Some of them are caused by our poor choices, others cause by others to us, and others are what life gives us. Whichever source comes our cross, the most important thing is to ask for God's strength and wisdom to help us carry the cross of our life. Hence, our First Reading this Sunday (Wisdom 9:13:18b) reminds of God, "*Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high?*" In line with this we remember and pray the Serenity Prayer: "***God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference***" Amen!

***Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- - Pray for us!***