



TASTE Reflection Questions #21
March 30, 2023

Embracing the Cross

Deacon Jim Munno

Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood
abides in Me and I in him." ~ John 6:56



1. Deacon Jim started this talk by saying that of the 6 talks in the Lenten Series, this would be the one that Satan would not want us to hear. Why do you think that would be?

2. Deacon Jim talked about Jesus carrying the cross and how we should deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.

- How do you feel about Jesus carrying the cross for all – especially for sinners and those who persecuted Him?* How does this relate to what we are called to do?
- How do you feel about Simon representing all of us for whom Jesus offers the opportunity to share in the carrying of the cross as an act of justice?

3. Deacon Jim said the point of the cross is not suffering; rather it is LOVE. And, If we seek this love, we can offer up our suffering in a meaningful way and receive grace and peace.

- Was this concept new to you? How did you feel about it?
- Have you ever experienced an outpouring of grace that brings new life and peace when you offered up your suffering? If so, explain.
- How can we know when to carry the cross and when not to be a doormat?

4. Deacon Jim described stages of realization: A) Unaware of our new burden and just feeling a new "misery", B) Try to pray it away, C) Try (through prayer) to replace it, D) Realize this is our cross and we must carry it, and E) Embrace the grace!

- How do your stages compare to these?
- What can help you get to the last stage (embracing the cross/grace)?

** Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. (Romans 5:7, 8)*