

“Justice For Laura” Novena - 9 Days of Prayer

Day Four



Scripture Passage: “The Agony in the Garden”

“Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go yonder and pray.” And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther, he fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” And he came to his disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” -MATTHEW 26: 36-41

Meditation:

Jesus told us very plainly that He is “the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE,” and we know and believe that we are called to take up our crosses daily, and follow Him; and

following Him means going to Calvary, going to our death... But this does not mean that the Good Lord wishes for us to be literally crucified, but we do know that we MUST “die” in a spiritual sense, if we are to rise with Christ in glory. We must die to sin, we must die to our selves, we must “put off the old man” and “put on the new man” as the apostle Paul exhorts us. The new man is Christ. “You who have been baptized have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27).

We are all called to this, and along the road to Calvary we also must pass through the garden, Gethsemane. And we too, following and imitating Christ, will very likely be tempted to reject our Father's plan for our “death,” and thus will pray “if it be possible, let this cup pass from me,” but we MUST finish that prayer in communion with Christ - “nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will,” with the certainty of our faith that the Father's will is only and ever for our good and eternal welfare, for God is Love. But we can still say with a great deal of certainty, that our souls, too, will be “sorrowful and troubled,” “very sorrowful,” in fact, “even to death.” Until the exact moment that we are fully and totally “crucified,” and “die” with Christ, our souls will be “very sorrowful,” for we are being called to “lay down our lives” and this is never an easy task, and always an unpleasant one. But it is necessary.

It is necessary for the man for whom we pray, Laura's murderer, for he too is called to rise with Christ in glory, and along the way to that destiny he must pass through the garden of suffering, carry his cross, and die with Christ. And we, as Christ's disciples, MUST NOT “fall asleep” in our prayerful support for this man. We absolutely must remain vigilant and devoted to prayer, for we are not only praying for this man, but we are truly praying for Christ. Jesus Christ is an eternal person, and therefore every action which he did in his earthly sojourn is an eternal action, and thus we cannot leave anything in the pages of history, but continually draw near to these eternal moments of the Gospel. Christ, in some mystical sense, is still suffering in the garden – the mystical body of Christ, the Church, is suffering in the garden, even today, and we, as members of that body but also disciples of that body, must NOT “fall asleep,” but remain devoted to that body and support it through our prayers. Christ is hurting in the garden precisely because he is taking the sins of the world upon himself, and Laura's murderer will, in his conversion, have to take his own sins upon himself and in a deep examination of his conscience and heart he will be called to account for all he has done, and he will suffer in that garden. Christ suffers with him and for him, and we, as members of Christ and also disciples of Christ, must stay faithful to our Lord by supporting this man in prayer, so that he may pass through the garden, go all the way to Calvary, “die” with Christ, and reap his eternal destiny which is nothing short of the resurrection and glory of Christ for eternity.

And we pray for Justice For Laura.

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Abba, Father,

You have revealed Yourself as the God of Love Who desires all Your children to be saved, and Who will run to embrace any soul who sincerely turns back to You.

We lift up the soul of Laura's killer, Your beloved child who has wandered in a far away land squandering the inheritance which You, his most Loving Father, have bestowed upon him. We beg the Holy Spirit to sing Your song of Love into his heart. Speak to his soul of his dignity and beauty as Your child, and give him the confidence to turn back to You in trust and repentance.

We ask this through the infinite merits of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Mercy Whose compassion knows no bounds.

Amen.

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