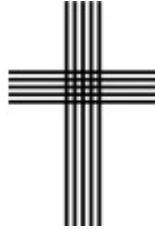


## **WE GLORY in the CROSS of OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus,  
Who, though He was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God  
something to be grasped.**

**Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance,  
He humbled Himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
Philippians 2:5-8**



**Let us pause and remember that we live and breathe and move in the  
holy presence of God.**

**Give glory to the Father Who is Source of all that is.**

**Give glory to the Son, Who died that we might all be His.**

**Give glory to the Holy Spirit Whom They to earth do send.**

**Give glory to our Triune God Whose rule will never end. Amen.**

### **ROMANS VIII**

**For those who love God, who are called to His plan**

**Everything works out for good.**

**And God Himself chose them to bear the likeness of His Son**

**That He might be the first of many, many brothers.**

**Who is able to condemn?**

**Only Christ Who died for us;**

**Christ Who rose for us;**

**Christ Who prays for us.**

**In the face of all this, what is there left to say?**

**For if God is for us, who can be against us?**

**Who can separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Neither trouble, nor pain, nor persecution.**

**What can separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Not the past, the present, nor the future.**

## **HYMN: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS**

### **Refrain**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim,  
Till all the world adore His sacred Name.**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.**

**Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
Bears on the brow the seal of Him Who died.**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw the world to Thee.**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory.**



**Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**

**We adore You, O Christ, and we thank You,  
because by Your cross You redeemed the world.**

**Alleluia!**

## **SCRIPTURE: JOHN 3: 12-18**

**If I tell you about earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?**

**No one has gone up to heaven except the One Who has come down from heaven, the Son of Man.**

**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life."**

**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life.**

**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.**

**Whoever believes in Him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.**

## REFLECTION: NEIL CHADWICK

One obvious, visible difference between present day Roman Catholics and Protestants, is the display of the "crucifix," a small or large replica of Jesus hanging on a cross. You may remember the humorous story told about the ten-year-old boy who was failing in math class. However, after the first day of classes in the Catholic school, the boy's parents were surprised when he totally changed his ways and at the end of the term had achieved his first ever "A" in math. When his parents quizzed him on this dramatic turn around, the boy seriously explained, "On that first day, when I walked in the front door and saw that guy they nailed to the 'plus sign,' I just knew they meant business with math!"

Catholics believe the crucifix helps them remember the sufferings of Jesus – Protestants see the empty cross as Jesus' triumph over sin and death. He was taken off the cross, buried, and rose again. Perhaps instead of a cross dangling from a silver chain, it ought to be a replica of an empty tomb! However, with our empty crosses, we too quickly adopt an air of superiority over our ritualistic brethren. After all, Jesus didn't ask us to bear a replica of His cross, He requires us to bear our own. Looking at a cross shouldn't only remind us of what He did, but also convict us about what we should do – take up the cross daily, and follow Him.

Christian discipleship has many aspects, such as, learning from Jesus, developing a close relationship with Him, proclaiming His message, making everything available for His use, total obedience and humility. All of that and more can be summed up in this command, "Take up your cross daily, and follow me."

Perhaps the greatest and most dangerous distortion of the Gospel is to say, "Become a Christian and your life will be carefree and blessed, all your wishes and dreams will come true, 'there'll be no sadness, no sorrow, no trouble I see' but rather a nonstop celebration and victorious living. We have almost totally forgotten that the promise of "Peace in the Valley" is for a later day – we have tried to hijack it for this life here and now.

However, the True Gospel, rather than being a promise of pleasure, privilege and prosperity, is a call to death to self, devotion to Jesus Christ – a discipleship that begins when we willingly "take up the Cross and follow Him."

Now, will you be His disciple?

Yes, we remember Jesus words, "All men will hate you because of me." Taking up the cross means that there will be hardships, difficulties and trials. But Jesus went on to say, "but he who stands firm to the end will be saved."

## **HYMN: TAKE UP YOUR CROSS**

**Take up your cross, the Savior said,  
if you would my disciple be;  
take up your cross with willing heart,  
and humbly follow after Me.**

**Take up your cross, let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear your spirit up,  
and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.**

**Take up your cross, heed not the shame,  
and let your foolish heart be still;  
the Lord for you accepted death  
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**

**Take up your cross, then, in His strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
it guides you to abundant life  
and leads to victory o'er the grave.**

**Take up your cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only those who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**



## **PRAYER**

**HAIL, O holy Cross, our strength.**

**Hail, O adorable Cross, our praise and glory.**

**Hail, O Cross, our help and refuge.**

**Hail, O Cross, consolation of all the mournful.**

**Hail, O Cross, our victory and hope.**

**Hail, O Cross, our defense and our life.**

**Hail, O Cross, our liberation and redemption.**

**Hail, O Cross, our sign of salvation and bulwark against the enemy.**

**May the Cross be for me always hope of my faith.**

**May the Cross be for me resurrection in my death.**

**May the Cross be for me triumph against demons.**

**May the Cross be for me mother of my consolation.**

**May the Cross be for me rest in my tribulations.**

**May the Cross be for me support in my old age.**

**May the Cross be for me healing in my illness.**

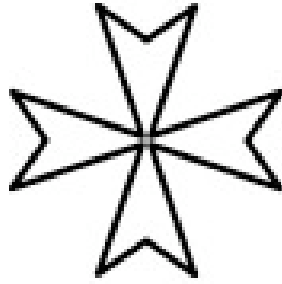
**May the Cross be for me protection in temptation.**

**May the Cross be for me consolation in my life.**

**May the Cross be for me solace in all my difficulties.**

**May the Cross be for me balm in my tribulations.**

**May the Cross be for me medicine to my infirmities and protection  
against all my enemies. Amen.**



**Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask ... (mention here)**

**We trust completely in Your Mercy.  
Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace,  
sanctify our work,  
give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread,  
lighten the burden of our sufferings,  
bless our families,  
and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace,  
so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven. Amen.**

**Saint John Baptist de La sale,  
and all you holy brothers who have gone before us,  
help us to follow the Lord Jesus  
as we take up our cross in His name.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts.  
Forever!**