



SALT Newsletter

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2021

A Palm Sunday Reflection from a Novice

“THEY PRESSED INTO SERVICE A PASSERBY, SIMON, A
CYRENIAN, WHO WAS COMING IN FROM THE COUNTRY, THE
FATHER OF ALEXANDER AND RUFUS, TO CARRY [JESUS’]
CROSS.”

-MARK 15:21

PROGRAM UPDATES

- Apply now for summer!

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Well, here we are at the end of another Lent. More importantly, however, we are at the start of another Holy Week. Starting on Palm Sunday, the Church asks us to journey to Calvary with Jesus. We are asked to journey with, not behind or in front of, Jesus as He makes His way to the Cross. There is no more appropriate way to begin this journey than by entering into the Passion narrative.

Growing up I found myself (mostly) going on autopilot when it came time to read the Passion. I followed along and spoke my parts like everyone else, but I never totally entered into the moment. Thankfully, that has changed as I have grown in my relationship with Christ. What’s more is that as I have moved from autopilot I have found the Passion accounts taking on more life for me. They began to raise certain questions for reflection, Lately, I have found myself wondering whatever happened to Simon of Cyrene after his help was no longer needed.

Whether or not Simon knew who Jesus was prior to that moment, or whether he believed he was the Son of God, does not matter all that much. The reality is that from that moment on, Simon and Jesus were linked to one another.

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A Palm Sunday Reflection from a Novice (continued)

In Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*, we are shown a man who, although reluctant when he is first pressed into service, grows in his care and compassion for the Lord throughout their shared journey to Calvary. In fact, it is almost as if once they reach the top Simon is unable to leave Jesus there. So much so that the Roman soldiers essentially have to shove him away. I know it is only a film, and that there was definitely creative license taken, but it does not seem to be that much of a stretch. I do not think that Simon would have been able to walk away unchanged, even if he wanted to. All throughout the Gospels we see people encounter Jesus, and leave somehow different than how they came.

The Gospel narrator also makes a point to mention that Simon is a father of two boys. In helping Jesus carry His cross, he gives his boys -- and really all of us -- an example to follow. It is not enough to simply encounter Jesus. Similarly, I do not entirely think it is enough to come away from the Lord different if others are not impacted by our example. Encountering Christ is meant to change us. Journeying through Holy Week with the Lord is meant to change us. It is not meant to be done on autopilot, like when I was growing up. Simon of Cyrene is so important because he exemplifies how we who have encountered the Lord, are meant to, not only come away changed but, be an example to those around us.

Journeying with Christ is not always easy. Being an example of love, and selflessness is not always easy either. But it is what the Lord has asked of us. As we walk the road to Calvary with Christ, and go forth from it, we can take comfort in knowing that we have examples like Simon to guide us. What's more is that we can take courage and strength from the knowledge that while we walk by Jesus' side, he likewise walks by ours.

May this Holy Week, and Easter, be one of true change for all of us as we journey with Jesus Christ.

-Sr. Michelle Elizabeth Marie, O. Carm. (Novice)

SALT Missionary '15-'19

Apply Now!

Summer is swiftly approaching! Will we see you in Germantown?

The SALT program is having in person service this summer! Come to the Motherhouse of the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm in Germantown, NY. We will be serving the residents of Teresian House (Albany, NY) either remotely or in person, if vaccines and restrictions allow.

SALT Program Options

- Monday, July 19—Friday July 24, 2021
- Monday, July 26—Friday, July 30, 2021
- Monday, August 2—Friday, August 6, 2021
- Monday, August 9—Friday, August 13, 2021

APPLY NOW! *All four weeks will be an option to anyone who registers before March 31st, after that we will only continue to offer the weeks that we already have missionaries registered for. Go to <https://salt-carmelite.org/ourprogram/apply.html>*

