



**From the Pastor
28th Sunday
in Ordinary Time - B
October 14, 2018**

On October 20 we honor **Saint Paul of the Cross** (1694-1775), a visionary, mystic and Priest-founder of the Order called the **Congregation of the Passion**, better known as the **Passionists**. He was nicknamed 'of the Cross' [his surname is Daneo] because he often carried a huge wooden crucifix with him while on preaching missions. Many Protestants - and even some Catholics - ask why we are so obsessed with the **Crucifixion**. They ask: shouldn't the **Cross** be **empty** as a sign of **Christ's Resurrection**? Why dwell on all that pain and sorrow, suffering and death?

Perhaps such 'Bible' churches and 'positively pleasant thinking' Catholics need to get back to the Bible! For as the **original Saint Paul: Saint Paul the Apostle** said: **"We proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."** [1 Corinthians 1:23-24] It seems people in **Saint Paul the Apostle's** time - and in **Saint Paul of the Cross's** time - and in our own time, prefer 'cheap grace' and salvation without paying the price of redemption. Read on to see how the orations for **Saint Paul of the Cross's** feast day help us overcome the 'stumbling block' and 'foolishness' of **Christ crucified**.

Collect - Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest

May the Priest Saint Paul, whose only love was the Cross, obtain for us your grace, O Lord, so that, urged on more strongly by his example, we may each embrace our own cross with courage.

Through our Lord Jesus ... forever and ever. Amen.

THE CROSS: THE SOLE WAY TO SALVATION.

One of the many flaws in human nature is: we believe we can get something for nothing or that **God** 'owes' us! To combat this selfish, self-centered, arrogant mindset, we must reflect on **Christ crucified**, which makes **our** pains and sorrows, **our** sufferings and woes, **our** sacrifices and injustices, seem like nothing! That **Jesus** so willingly accepted the horror of a crucifixion and vicious scourging, humiliation, abandonment

and mockery, is mindboggling. No wonder when those unaccustomed to a **Crucifix** or the **Stations of the Cross** saw the movie **The Passion of the Christ**, they were shocked by the sheer brutality of a Roman crucifixion. That's why we need an image of **Christ crucified** in our homes and elsewhere - as a reminder of all **Jesus** suffered to redeem us!

Prayer over the Offerings - Saint Paul of the Cross

Look upon the sacrificial gifts we offer, almighty God, in commemoration of Saint Paul of the Cross and grant that we who celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's Passion may imitate what we now enact. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE SHARE IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS. Just as **Jesus** endured many crosses in His life before being nailed to that ultimate **Cross**, **Saint Paul of the Cross** endured many hardships; God certainly does not make it easy for those who seek to do His will! The Italians to whom he preached were far from receptive to his words; they mocked his pious practices and public penances; many Church authorities thought his desire to add a fourth vow: to spread the memory of Christ's passion among the faithful, to the traditional three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, was odd. Yet through constant prayer and penance, he persevered. Where do we find the strength to do what we believe is God's will?

Prayer after Communion - Saint Paul of the Cross

O God, who in Saint Paul have wonderfully made known the mystery of the Cross, graciously grant that, drawing strength from this sacrifice, we may cling faithfully to Christ and labor in the Church for the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

HOW TO FAITHFULLY 'CLING TO CHRIST.'

Do we use the Sacraments and sacramentals [Stations of the Cross, a Crucifix, holy image, etc.] to 'cling to Christ?' Do we 'do penance' and 'offer things up' for our own sins and the sins of others? **Saint Paul of the Cross, pray for us!**

With God's love and my prayers,

Father Mike

Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, V.F., KHS