

REFLECTION (Good Friday)

As I meditate on the Way of the Cross, the 8th Station hit me in the heart – when Jesus met the women of Jerusalem on His way to Mount Calvary. These women were weeping as they saw the bloody Jesus, kicked and whipped as He carried His Cross. Jesus turned to them and said: “Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not over me; but weep for yourselves, and for your children.” These women were lamenting as they witnessed the suffering of their Lord. But instead of consoling them and assuring them of His eventual triumph and resurrection, He tells them not to weep for Him but for themselves and their children. This statement made by Jesus is generally believed to be a warning of the terrible destruction that would come upon Jerusalem, a prophecy that was eventually fulfilled in the year 70 AD. The Israelites were chastised because they and their children have turned away from God. But these words of Jesus are now speaking to me as a mother living in the modern era of the 21st century.

We, mothers of millennials, are living in the midst of an agnostic and indifferent generation. Many of our children have fallen away from the Catholic Church and have no relationship with Jesus. They may go through the motions of attending Mass on Sundays, but our Lord is far from their hearts. In their pride and self-reliance, they have disobeyed and wounded the Heart of Jesus. We, mothers, lament over this, because our children have become spiritually empty. We weep with sorrow and remorse for having been complacent in fostering our children’s spiritual growth during their early development. We have focused on our own personal ambitions and our children’s academic success. We taught them to rely on their own abilities but did not teach them to trust in God. Jesus calls us and our children to conversion, to a change of heart. Could this coronavirus pandemic be our chastisement? We pray that God relents in His punishment, for we are an Easter people and we live in hope and trust in our most loving and merciful Father. We must continue to pray and offer sacrifices to console our Lord’s grieving heart. Amen.