

A devotion, ""United to Our Crucified and Risen Lord." ~ finding meaning in suffering by uniting our wounds to CHRIST Wounds
By Saint Teresa Benedicta of The Cross, Carmelite Nun,
Jewish Convert to The Church, Martyred by the Nazis
(1891 - 1942 AD)



<https://ucatholic.com/saints/teresa-benedicta/>

"The burden of The Cross that CHRIST assumed is that of human nature with all its consequences in sin and suffering to which fallen humanity is subject. The meaning of The Way of The Cross is to carry this burden out of the world.

The restoration of freed humanity to The Heart of The Heavenly Father, taking on the status of a child, is The free Gift of Grace, of Merciful Love. But this may not occur at the expense of Divine Holiness and Justice.

The entire sum of human failures, from the first Fall up to the Day of Judgment, must be blotted out by a corresponding measure of expiation [atoning; making a sacrificial act of reparation for offense]...

When someone desires to suffer, it is not merely a pious reminder of The Suffering of The Lord. Voluntary suffering is what truly and really unites one to The Lord intimately. When it arises, it comes from an already existing relationship with CHRIST.

For by nature a person flees from suffering. Only someone whose spiritual eyes have been opened to the supernatural correlations of worldly events can desire suffering in expiation, and this is only possible for people in whom The Spirit of CHRIST dwells, who as members are given life by The Head, receive His Power, His Meaning, and His direction.

Conversely, works of expiation bind one closer to CHRIST, as every community that works together on one task becomes more and more closely knit and as the limbs of a body, working together organically, continually become more strongly one.

But because being One with CHRIST is our sanctity, and progressively becoming One with Him our happiness on earth, The Love of The Cross in no way contradicts being a joyful child of GOD. Helping CHRIST carry His Cross fills one with a strong and pure joy, and those who may and can do so, the builders of GOD's Kingdom, are the most authentic children of GOD.

And so those who have a predilection for The Way of The Cross by no means deny that Good Friday is past and that The Work of Salvation has been accomplished. Only those who are saved, only children of Grace, can in fact be bearers of CHRIST's Cross.

Only in union with The Divine Head does human suffering take on expiatory power. To suffer and to be happy although suffering, to have one's feet on the earth, to walk on the dirty and rough paths of this earth, and yet to be enthroned with CHRIST at The Father's right hand, to laugh and cry with the children of this world and ceaselessly sing the praises to GOD with the choirs of angels - this is the life of the Christian until the morning of Eternity breaks forth." *

13 I will take The Cup of Salvation, and call upon The Name of The LORD.

14 I will pay my vows unto The LORD now in the presence of all His people.

15 Precious in The Sight of The LORD is the death of His saints.

JOHN 6:35

And JESUS said unto them, I AM The Bread of Life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.

REVELATION 7:17

For The Lamb Which is in the midst of The Throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and GOD shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

“Edith Stein was born the youngest of eleven children to a Jewish couple in Breslau, Germany (present day Poland). A decisive encounter with the writings of [Saint] Teresa of Avila drew her into The [Catholic] Church, and eleven years later, into the Carmelite Order.

She took the name Teresa Benedicta of The Cross. On August 2, 1942, the Gestapo arrested Teresa and her blood sister, Rosa, at the Carmel in Echt, Netherlands.

She died at Auschwitz on August 9. Her last words to Rosa before leaving the Carmel were: "Come, we are going [to die] for our people."

In 1999, Saint [Pope] John Paul II declared this "eminent daughter of Israel and faithful daughter of The Church" co-patroness of Europe."*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ktQu0BNXf8>

*["Saint Teresa Benedicta of The Cross." The Magnificat, 8/09/2021. Optional memorial, p 120-121. Meditation of the Day, "United to Our Crucified and Risen Lord." by St. Teresa Benedicta of The Cross, p 124-126.]