



The Cross

A Mighty Arrow

St. Mary and Archangel Michael Church, Houston TX

This Article is from a collection of essays written by Rev. Fr. Pishoy Kamel, about the Cross (which he loved dearly), that, at the last hours before his departure to the heavenly dwellings, his eyes didn't cease for a second to gaze at the picture of the Cross (with Mary Magdalene) hanged over his bed.

fellowship of carrying the cross, pray and intercede for me, and help me to carry my cross. You, who are experienced in carrying the cross, teach me and help me.

And you, Simon of Cyrene pray for me, that I may bear other people's cross with happiness, love, and without grumbling, even if they forced me as they forced you.

The Strength of the Cross:

The children of Jesus should be strong, and their cross is the witness of their strength. Thus the Lord told His disciples before being lifted up on the Cross. "The Son of Man should be crucified," which shows that the Cross was not something to happen accidentally during the Lord's Life on earth, but it was a must, a must for Christ to be crucified.

Likewise, whoever wishes to be one of Jesus' disciples should be crucified ... "Whoever wishes to be My disciple should carry his cross," and follow the Lord Jesus the Crucified, everyday.

My Lord Jesus, grant me understanding to realize the strength of your Cross, make me feel not defeated but victorious through the power of your Cross amidst any tribulation in the world and against its principles.

My Lord Jesus, help me to hold my cross in strength, courage and love for the truth, imitating You and witnessing for You in a deceiving world, with joy and gladness.

My Mother Virgin Mary, whose soul was pierced by a sword and who tasted the

The cross is struggling in happiness:

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate," as you look at the cross, do not forget that "you have not yet resisted unto blood striving against sin." We should struggle in order to gain the fruit. "We live yet not we, but Christ lives in us" Striving to crucify every sin for which our Lord Jesus was crucified. We should crucify the ego, selfishness, hatred, grumbling and unthankfulness... we crucify all these to gain the life of Christ not ours... isn't that the strongest aim in our life which deserves living through the Cross? Isn't that objective enough to motivate us to struggle?!!

Our Cross and Our Lord's Cross

They (these two crosses) should not be separated from one another, thus it was said: "looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith," that is to say, to the cross...., and how did our Lord accept the rejection of the world-. Through His lifting up on the Cross, He drew all men unto Him.



The Lord raised His Cross against hatred, selfishness, pride, reproach, insult and slap... He received all these things with infinite love of the cross with complete humbleness, sacrifice for the sake of the whole world, and praying for those who pierced Him and spat on Him. Our Lord faced the judgment of philosophers, the power of the chives, the judges and the world with the foolishness of the cross and the weakness of God is stronger than men and the foolishness of God is wiser than men". (1 Cor. 1:25)

He didn't turn back, nor turn His face away from shame of spitting.

Escaping from the cross is escaping from the glory of God, because our Lord reigned on the Cross, He said about the time of His crucifixion "Now the hour has come for the

Son of Man to be glorified." The Life of a Christian person is a way full of sweet crosses which ends each one of them in glory.

Then the cross is a school ... escaping from it means losing your future. And the cross is the only way to the resurrection... escaping from it leads to eternal death.

Therefore there was no way for the salvation of humanity except through the Lord Christ's decadence, His incarnation and His crucifixion, that's why He said. "I am the Way"

- My dear brother, do not give up your cross, but discover in it the strength of your resurrection.

- Don't be slack in your struggle lest you should lose your crown



What health and sickness are to the body, virtue and wickedness are to the soul, and knowledge and ignorance to the intellect. The greater our devotion to the practice of the virtues, the more our intellect is illumined by knowledge. It is in this way that we are accounted worthy of mercy, that is, through the fifth commandment: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy' (Mt. 5:7). The merciful person is he who gives to others what he has himself received from God, whether it be money, or food, or strength, a helpful word, a prayer, or anything else that he has through which he can express his compassion for those in need. At the same time he considers himself a debtor, since he has received more than he is asked to give.

St. Peter of Damascus ·

