

# 2021 Lenten Reflections



Sisters of the Presentation  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
*In Joyful Service*

*April 2, 2021~Good Friday*

**One who was similarly tested in every way... he learned obedience from what he suffered. Hebrews 4:15, 5:8**

When we are faced with a trying time we often draw comfort and the courage to go on when someone can empathize with our pain and suffering. Their presence makes a difference. It matters to us that we are heard and our situation treated with respect.

As has often been mentioned here, we were tested in many ways this past year. Our passage today reminds us we can draw comfort and courage knowing that Jesus was also tested and knew limitations. He faced huge unknowns and experienced upheavals in his life. He drew courage from leaning on those around him and his deep faith life. Jesus knows from the inside out how we have been impacted by all that has transpired this past year and is present as one with us.

Obedience means “to listen”. Jesus learned to listen in a fuller way by passing through his suffering. He did not avoid it, minimize it or make over much of it. In a similar way we had to face each day with firm resolve especially during the height of hospitalizations. This was part of our suffering. When we listen “with the ear of our heart” as St. Benedict would say to our suffering what did we discover? What have you come to realize about yourself that you did not know? Perhaps you noticed an inner strength that surprised you as you weathered this testing? Can you claim a deeper relationship and dependence upon God and one another now? As we are quietly present with Jesus this day, listen to your suffering again with him and see if there is more that it has to teach you.

*Compassionate Jesus, help us stay with you at the cross. Enlighten our mind and heart to perceive what was going on within you as you embraced your suffering. Amen.*

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