

February 23, 2025

As we head towards Ash Wednesday and Lent I thought to share this message from a daily Mass last week.

Genesis and Mark 8

-Tower of Babel is all about the “I” / I am getting to Heaven my own way.

-I will center everything on myself and my will alone.

-Previously, Jesus predicts his Passion for the first time / He will sacrifice himself in love for the other / By His Cross, Jesus becomes a source of life for the other.

-“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” The path of discipleship is the path of self-sacrificing love.”

-There is no cross in I / Pleasure, power, honor, wealth will never be fulfillment within itself / But the true, the beautiful, and the good point us to God’s way that is outside of ourselves and the material world.

-Ronald Knox talked about the sign of the cross this way: the first two gestures form the letter “I,” and the next two cross it out.

-Discipleship begins with no I in team / Humility, self-sacrifice, and service is the way to holiness and fulfillment / And to God and Heaven.

-My mother looking at me with the eyes of Christ.

-By being there / Being attentive / Seeking the true, beautiful, and the good in her suffering and mine at the foot of her cross / lead me to see the eyes of Christ gazing back at me from my mother.

-With those eyes / I knew over time I would find redemptive meaning (not focused on what I wanted) but focused on the other (I found Jesus in a broken world, where there will be redemptive suffering as we ascend to Heaven).

-I found Jesus at the foot of my mother's cross, and the life.

Vivat Jesus,

Fr. Vic Gournas