Message from the Spiritual Advisor: Small Actions...Great Rewards

Dino J. Lorenzetti
Small Actions . . . Great Rewards

At the sixth station in the Way of the Cross, a woman named Veronica is seen wiping the face of Jesus on His agonizing journey to Calvary.

Instantly she is rewarded for her act of kindness as Jesus presents her with a true portrait of Himself while in the depth of great suffering and passion. His bloodstained picture portrays His willingness to suffer for the redemption of all humankind. It shows His tremendous love for all of His sisters and brothers — for you and me.

While the words of Veronica are not recorded, her simple gesture was so expressive that she will be remembered for all ages. A small act performed courageously and with compassion is seen as truly monumental, for in her love and concern, she literally touched Jesus.

Little is also known of Simon, the Cyrenean. Yet his carrying of the cross for the Lord (it was probably for less than an hour), will be remembered always.

Dismas, virtually helpless while nailed to the cross, was fearless in his defense of Jesus as he loudly declared, “This man has done nothing wrong.” For his heartfelt words, the gentle Jesus immediately declared him a saint, by saying: “I assure you, this day you will be with Me in Paradise.”

Small actions? Great rewards!!! Jesus is never outdone in generosity. He claimed, “I assure you that anyone who gives a drink of water because of Me will certainly receive his reward.” When it comes to offering hospitality, St. Matthew, 10-40, records, “Whoever welcomes you (your patient), welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One Who sent Me”.

Your actions — your defense — your response . . . when performed in love, may seem like small gestures, yet in the eyes of the Lord they
are great signs of your faith.

See in your patient, veiled in human flesh, the suffering Christ before you. Then, in “your helplessness”, like Simon, Veronica, and Dismas, do whatever you can; do your best, for you have been blessed; you have encountered the Savior.

When your days on this earth are completed, may you who have in faith touched Christ, carried His cross and defended His life, hear His loving words of welcome to the Kingdom — WELCOME, my good and faithful servant, for “today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

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