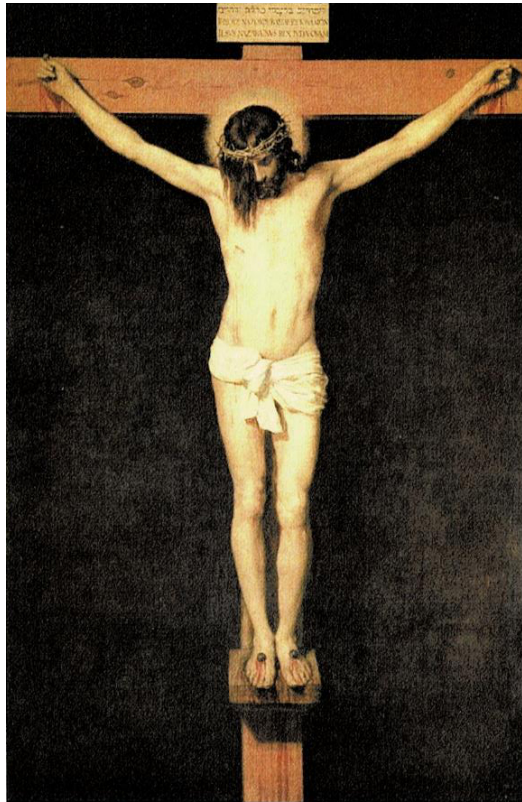


## Sermon for Good Friday

Preached by Sister Margo Elizabeth, C.S.J.B. on April 10, 2020



Transformation can often take a very long time...  
The oyster's pearl can take up to 20 years to form.  
And millions of years for a diamond to form,  
resulting from intense heat and pressure deep in  
the earth.

Living the religious life has been described as "the  
crucible of community." It often is years before we  
fully realize our purpose for being here...

And here we are again. Another Holy Week, more  
betrayal, another crucifixion. I don't know if we can  
go through this again...

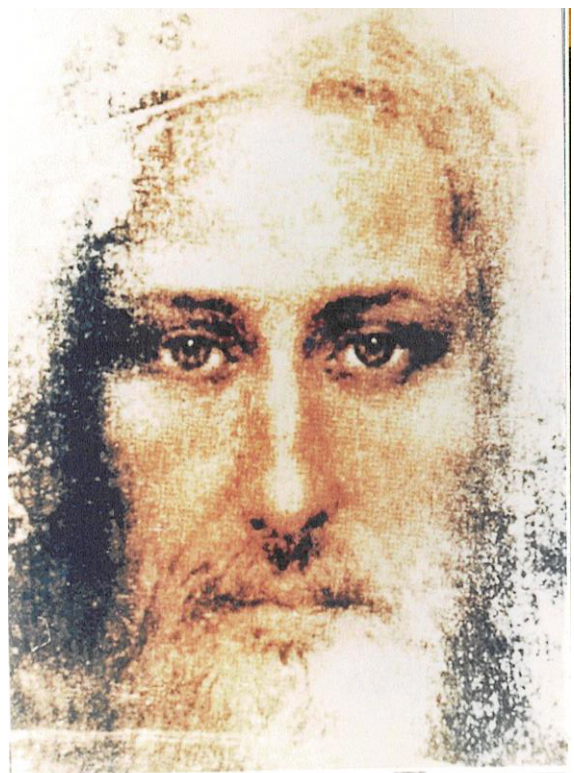
But we can. And we will. Until we get it...

"He was despised and rejected. A man of sorrows  
and acquainted with grief." He gave Himself to be mocked, scourged, spat on, and  
crucified.

He willingly surrendered his life... for us.

Through his pain and suffering on the cross,  
Christ's love for humanity can only draw out from  
each of us a love that is almost unbearable. Are  
we willing to be with Him during his time of  
suffering? And how can we be at the foot of the  
cross and not be changed?

If we are being asked to love Jesus, to love God  
with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our  
strength and with all our mind, we will be  
changed.



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Near the very end of her book, *Revelations of Divine Love*, Julian of Norwich reveals that for many years following her visions, she often wondered why they had been shown to her, and what was their deeper meaning. After years of searching and reflecting, she finally understood. It is during this Holy week when we, too, might be seeking the deeper meaning of our lives. We may feel Christ's presence amidst our blessings and our joys, but we often fail to have the faith that he is truly present within our fears, our anxiety, our losses, our grief. Yet throughout her *Revelations*, Julian is certain that Christ is always at work in everything, forever transforming our darkness into light, our pain and suffering into peace, and death into new life. We may not see or understand it, but Julian assures us that "our faith is our light in our night, which is God's Light, our endless day."

And so Julian writes:

"What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in these things? Know it well, love was his meaning...

Who reveals it to you? Love... What did He reveal you? Love...

Why does He reveal it to you? For Love...."

*(Images: 1. "Christ on the Cross", by Diego Rodriguez de Silva y Velazquez. Oil painting on canvas from 1632, now in the Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain. 2. Artist's rendering of the face of Christ based on the Shroud of Turin.)*