



CUPS OF SUFFERING

The gospel relates how the Divine Savior asks his disciples: “Can you drink the cup from which I will drink?”

[Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1899/05/05A]

*But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don't know what you are asking!
Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?”*

“Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!”

[Matthew 20:22]

Whatever suffering, trial, affliction, anxiety, humiliation, etc., may overtake you, always say from the bottom of your heart *Fiat voluntas Tua* [*Your will be done*].

[Father Jordan, *Spiritual Diary*, I/18]

When evil spirits, anxieties and sufferings encompass you on all sides, just pray to God with trust and work without ceasing for His holy cause. Help will come in His time; do not lose heart but place your whole trust in God.

[Father Jordan, *Spiritual Diary*, I/191]

Certainly Fr. Jordan experienced great sorrow at the hands of the hierarchy. In a chapter talk to the Motherhouse community he speaks about ‘the four cups of suffering’ that we as apostles must be prepared to drink: *“The last, if God should pass it to you, is when even those appointed by God to support and guard you, even the church authorities, lay obstacles in your path. This is the fourth and most bitter!”* (Chapter talk of 1899-05-05A) Nonetheless, we know that even to his last days he saw himself as a faithful and loyal son of the Church accepting decisions that were difficult and went contrary to his vision. For him it was part of embracing the cross in which salvation is found.

[Fr. Raúl Gómez, SDS, in *Dialoguing with Fr. Jordan*, p. 225]

Reflection Starters

- What are some of the “cups of suffering” that I am called to drink?
- How do I sometimes contribute to adding “cups of suffering” to others?

For further reading and reflection:

1. Father Jordan, *Jordan Talks*, 1899/05/05A (Four Cups of Suffering).
2. Sr. Jean Schaefer, SDS, “Salvatorian Spirituality: The Centrality of the Cross,” *Salvatorian Key Elements*, Part 3, pp. 70-85.
3. Fr. Daniel Pekarske, SDS, *God's Strength Shining Through Human Weakness. Contributions on Salvatorian History, Charism, and Spirituality*, Vol 11, pp. 97-105.