

TRIUMPH OF THE HOLY CROSS

14 September 2022

CHRIST HAS

NO BODY

CHRIST HAS NO FACE

CHRIST HAS NO HANDS

CHRIST HAS NO FEET

BUT YOURS

to be in todays' world



200 years ago

Mother Bernarda chose to be:

Christ's body, Christ's Face,

Christ's Hands, Christ's Feet

for us to be an example to follow



As children we often enjoyed “line-walking” on either a string or on a board in the street. It requires concentration, to set foot in front of foot. Some artists bring it to its heights on a rope. What a trust! It needs practise, trust, perseverance and most of all balance to walk towards the goal.

It gives patience, confidence, equilibrium and contentment.



*Church, Orselina,
Locarno, CH*

In the image of the Crucified here looks like a rope dancer. He is hanging but held by a circle fixed on two ropes. Could the ring be a symbol of the earth? It seems that Jesus on his Cross is totally in nature and yet breaking through it. The dimension of His death surpasses all confinements and reaches out to the behind, the unknown. In his going beyond, He overcomes all fear, all hate, and all human deficiency. He reveals the true face of God. Jesus is someone for us to imitate and not just to worship. Can we follow Him?

For St. Paul ‘The Mystery of the Cross’ is code-breaking and fundamental resolution for the confusing mystery of life. The revelation of the cross makes you indestructible, because it is a way through all absurdity and tragedy as part of God’s Love. If you internalize the Paschal mystery of Christ, you will not fall into cynicism, failure, bitterness or scepticism. The Cross gives you a precise and profound way through the dark side of life and through all disappointments.¹

¹ Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditations for 27 March, 2022.

The beauty of the next picture invites us to go deeper and deeper. The Crucifix hangs above a stony entrance - to the sacristy - which is behind the benchless church hall. Entering, the eye is attracted to see a dimension which is afar, it seems almost beyond. The viewer becomes a contemplator. The church in its special beauty touches your inner heart. Automatically you enter into a deep silence.



Church of John the Baptist, Mogno, CH

Real silence moves us from knowing things to perceiving a Presence that imbues all things. Are you able to feel then God? When we begin to experience a mutuality between ourselves and all things, we have begun to understand the nature of Spirit. God refuses to be known as any kind of object, but only as a mutuality.²

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mind set as Christ Jesus: who, being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God.. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross!”(Phil.2: 5-8)

Until and unless Christ is experienced as a living relationship between people, the gospel remains largely an abstraction. Until Christ is passed on personally through faithfulness and forgiveness toward another, through concrete bonds of union, we can doubt as the author says whether Christ is passed on by words, sermons, institutions, or ideas.³

“The Christian is not merely ‘alone with the Alone’, but one with all brothers and sisters in Christ. The Christian’s inner self is, in fact, inseparable from Christ and hence it is in a mysterious and unique way inseparable from all

² From Me to We, July 4th, 2022. Fr. R. Rohr’s Daily Meditations.

³ Reality as Communion, July 3rd, 2022. Fr. R Rohr

the other 'I's' who live in Christ, so that they all form one Mystical Person which is Christ." (Thomas Merton, *Inner Experience* 2003)

The first draft of our Constitutions reads, "Let each sister make it her care to choose for her portion the Cross of Jesus Christ, to lead a life hidden in Jesus Christ." (L.C. Moore & P.M. Kalin- *Bernarda Heimgartner* Pg. 17)

We might find ourselves swimming against the current, but we have made a conscious decision to practice something different in response to an inner call. God calls us to live a deep-rooted spirituality inspired by our encounters with God and commitment to our mission. It brings beauty and healing to our challenging world. Walking in the footsteps of Mother Bernarda, we are called to be contemplatives in action of the here and now. Within the limitations of our lives, we use our gifts committedly as we devote ourselves to prayerful living.

I invite you to create some space for intentional silence and stillness to contemplate the mystery of the Cross.

May Mother Bernarda inspire us to move forward daring to step on like Jesus, "the rope dancer" into a new future deeply rooted in Gods vision of the world.

Our Festal wishes to you on this Congregational Celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



Sr. Rose Paul Puthusserril
On behalf of the Congregational Leadership



**Glass Window, Mother
Bernarda's Chapel, Menzingen**



Front page:

- i) Crucifix from Holy Cross Chapel, Brione, CH:
- ii) Song: Attributed to St. Theresa of Avila