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A WAY OF THE CROSS FOR SENIORS

DENNIS H. FERENCE



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Imprimi Potest:
Richard Thibodeau, CSsR
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The Redemptorists

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Dennis H. Ference

Opening Prayer

Lord, I never really planned on growing old. For most of my life I looked at the elderly with a mixture of curiosity and detachment, denying for myself the inevitable fate of anyone spared in their youth and middle years from deadly accident and fatal disease. But now I understand that aging is part of my reality. I am humbled by its blessings. I am challenged by its crosses. Lord, I have come to believe that every stage of life has its journey to Calvary. I begin this meditation on your way of the cross praying that you will strengthen and comfort me on mine.



- I -

Jesus Is Condemned to Death

Lord, how empty and lonely you must feel as you stand before the authorities and the hostile crowd. Betrayal, rejection, ridicule, loss, apparent failure, the threat of death—you suffer it all. And yet, in the midst of such severe realities you maintain a dignity that speaks of a deep grounding and a determined openness to your Father's will.



Facing the harder realities of aging can be a very lonely experience. I must, perhaps, acknowledge dreams unrealized, potential unfulfilled, mounting losses, failing health, financial uncertainty, and the disdain of a youth-oriented culture. In addition, I must increasingly come to terms with the truth of approaching death. There is no escape. There is no reprieve.

Lord, help me to go deep inside where the light of your Spirit shines through the darkness. Give me the strength and courage to consent to the whole of life with the dignity of someone who knows that God does not abandon us.