

## HOMILY

*"Take my yoke upon you..."* The invitation of Jesus today. His yoke is His teaching: His Way, His Life, His Truth. Pope Benedict 16th, a few years ago, speaking to young people said: *"The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."* Every one of us was created for greatness. To achieve greatness means that there are times that we have to reject the comfort of the world. There are times that we have to be uncomfortable. At these times, we are mocked for our faith and our morality. We are mocked for our self-discipline, refusing to live only for ourselves. We are mocked because we know that sex is sacred and reserved for marriage and we live that way. We are mocked because we know that we have to avoid certain people, certain places, certain parties, etc., because we know that they can destroy us. We are mocked because we are not part of the crowd. This is not comfortable. But we were not created for comfort. We were not created to be part of the crowd. We were created for greatness. *"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle"*, St Francis of Assisi said. We are that single light in the world—Jesus' light in the darkness of hopelessness. That is the burden, that is the yoke, that Jesus is calling us to accept in today's Gospel. *"Take my yoke upon you..."*

But is that burden, the burden of living moral lives, really so difficult? Not when it is compared to the burden of carrying sin. It is so much easier to carry the burden of the Lord. The burden the Lord brings us joy. It brings peace in this life and total union with Him in the next life.

It is easy for us to sin. It is difficult to live with our sins. *"God could never forgive my sins"*, says the person who does not know God; that's what our sins try to convince us of when we sin —*"God won't forgive, can't forgive me"*. It can be a challenge to avoid sin, even a burden. But it is a joy to live free of sin. It is a joy to join those who sing with their lives, *"All is well, all is well with my soul."*

*"For I am humble of heart."* Jesus is humble of heart. Proud people see the universe revolving around themselves. If there is insult, the proud refuse to forgive. *"Who does he think he is,"* the proud ask. The proud are not concerned with returning the sinner to love. Their only concern is vengeance. That is not the way of the Lord. Jesus is humble of heart. His concern is not with how He has been offended. His concern is with the sinner and returning him or her to the divine love. This is the mercy of God pouring out from Jesus' heart.

*"Come to me...you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens ...for I am gentle and humble of heart..."* Jesus is saying, *"I am not concerned about myself. I am concerned about you. I suffered on the cross for you. Give me your burdens. I want them, no matter how ugly, how messy they may be."*

St Faustina tells us this, *"The Lord said to me, 'The loss of each soul plunges Me into mortal sadness. You always console Me when you pray for sinners. The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion of sinners. Know, My daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered.'" So, if we are humble like Jesus, we will not be concerned only with our personal salvation but with the salvation of those people who are consumed by sin that separates them from Jesus. Let us pray for them this week.*

*"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."*

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

14th Sunday In Ordinary Time—July 5, 2020

**Priest:**

The Lord always hears the prayers of His people;  
with confidence let us bring our needs to Him.

**LECTOR:** "Father of Jesus, Hear Our Prayer"

Let the Church trust in your care for us, experience your love for us,  
and worship you worthily:

**We pray...**

Bless governments with the Wisdom to serve their people:

We pray...

Bring to those filled with sin and darkness your mercy and light:

**We pray...**

Give our families the gift of respect, wisdom and mutual love:

**We pray...**

Let those who are poor and without any help be assisted:

**We pray...**

Bring our sick and shut-ins to know your love: (especially); Dimetrio DeGuzman;

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**We pray...**

As our dead come before you, show them your merciful face (especially):  
those who have died from the virus; \_\_\_\_\_

We pray...

In our silence now, let the light of your presence shine in us (PAUSE):

We Pray...

**Priest:**

Father of Jesus,  
your Son has revealed your  
love for us.  
May we reveal Him  
to our world.  
Through the same Christ,  
our Lord, who lives forever and ever.  
Amen.