

# HANDOUTS: Week Seven

## Sharing the Passion of Jesus



### **Week Three of the Spiritual Exercises: a new movement in the retreat – a pivot point:**

*We begin this week with a new invitation from Ignatius...*

*And from God...*

*To explore new aspects of your relationship with Him.*

### **Reality: We are all going to die.**

It is the Great Shadow that hangs over every choice,  
Over every life event – over every relationship...  
Especially every relationship.

### **One or the other is eventually going to fall ill and pass on from this life.**

*What if we could break the cycle of the heartbreaking loneliness of this reality?*

What if, by our courage,  
By our compassion,  
By our authentic sorrow,  
We could break that cycle of loneliness  
By truly entering the suffering of the other?

Horribly uncomfortable...utterly painful... but full of LOVE:  
Deep, self-giving LOVE for the other.

### **Walking with our friend Jesus on his final journey to Calvary**

We are not invited to do this as some outsider, but as Jesus' friend.

It can be tempting to keep your distance – to embrace distractions – to water things down. We are invited to break through that temptation and instead walk with Jesus up close! We are invited to get out of the abstract and instead embrace Jesus' full, fragile humanity.

## **We seek grace:**

Compassion...regret...confusion...

Sorrow with Christ in sorrow...

A broken spirit with Christ so broken...

Interior suffering because of his great suffering...

Empathy and compassion for our friend.

## **Keep in mind:**

1. Suffering with our friend may stir up intense feelings and memories. Don't run away from those feelings - rather, bring them to God.
2. Walk this week ready to receive whatever grace God wants to give you. Don't try to make something happen, nor beat yourself up if this week doesn't happen like you want it to.
3. The goal of this week is to *get out of ourselves*. Yes, we recognize our own sin and our own need to be saved by the Cross of Jesus. What occurs this week is for all of humanity. But his week is more than just about us.

**Compassion:**

Pati = to suffer

Com = with

## **This week, may we be filled with love for the Jesus who suffers...**

For all of humanity who suffers...

For ourselves when we suffer.