

Connecting Music to Mass
September 4 2016

Today's readings are found at #1160 in the hymnal.

Jesus has a firm reminder for us this week – discipleship comes at a cost. We hear about the cost Paul paid in the second reading - his letter to Philemon - written while in prison. "...a prisoner for Christ." Jesus' address in the gospel is abrupt. You can picture a crowd of people following him, when, seemingly out of nowhere, he turns around and lets them know the risk of discipleship. He uses the metaphor of an architect or builder constructing a tower, and a king commanding his army. Consider the price your goal will cost (and what may come up along the way) before making a hasty decision.

As 21st century Christians *we realize these risks!* And yet we still choose to come back week after week to encounter Jesus in Word and Sacrament, and to be challenged in new ways as we go out into the world. Is it worth it? The hymn "Take Up Your Cross" (#801) begins our celebration with the bit of good news that, yes, this life is worth the risk. Throughout the hymn text, we hear echoes of recent gospels. *"And humbly follow after me"* (The one who humbles himself...) *"His grace shall bear your spirit up"* (Blessed are the poor in spirit...) *"And let your foolish pride be still"* (The rich man who took pride in his possessions) Amid all this, the good news is found in the concluding stanza – "For those who humbly bear the cross One day will wear the glorious crown!"

Of course, part of our duty as disciples is to share the good news of the resurrection. Today, we are sent forth with the message, "Go Make of All Disciples" (#769). Evangelization is not just going door to door, or standing on the street corner with a Bible. The end of the first stanza reminds us of a very common way to share Christ – *"And let our daily living reveal you everywhere."*

As baptized members of the Body of Christ, we each have a **vocation** (stanza 3) to serve the Church in different ways. It's through the sharing of these gifts that we build up the Body of Christ, and share that message with others. The next part of stanza 3 offers a beautiful image – *"We cultivate the nature God plants in every heart."* Countering the image of the stereotypical shouting street corner evangelist, we have a farmer or gardener, gently cultivating God's creation. From the planting of the seed, the caretaker waters and fertilizes, watching it grow into something much larger than the seed. The end result is goodness, whether a flower to reveal God's beauty, or a fruit or vegetable to nourish our bodies.

This gentle cultivation is the true work of evangelization that each of us can achieve through encounter with strangers, friends, and even our own family members. On this Sunday, as the Church celebrates the canonization of Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata - an extraordinary contemporary disciple - let us pray for her intercession in our life of discipleship and in our work of evangelization.

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[Click here - Sunday Readings for September 4, 2016](#)

Take Up Your Cross



1. "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "If
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight Fill
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength, And
5. Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, Nor



you would my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; His strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; The Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - 'ry dan - ger brave: It guides you to a
 think till death to lay it down; For those who hum - bly



will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, And brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death Up - on a cross on Cal - v'ry's hill.
 bet - ter home And leads to vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 bear the cross One day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Go Make of All Disciples



1. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We hear the call, O
2. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples," Bap - tiz - ing in the
3. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We at your feet would
4. "Go make of all dis - ci - ples." We wel-come your com -



Lord, That comes from you, our Fa - ther, In
 name Of Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it— From
 stay Un - til each life's vo - ca - tion Shows
 mand. "Lo, I am with you al - ways." We



your e - ter - nal Word. In - spire our ways of
 age to age the same. We call each new dis -
 forth your ho - ly way. We cul - ti - vate the
 take your guid - ing hand. The task looms large be -



learn - ing Through earn - est, fer - vent prayer, And
 ci - ple To fol - low you, O Lord, Re -
 na - ture God plants in ev - 'ry heart, Re -
 fore us— We fol - low with - out fear. In



let our dai - ly liv - ing Re - veal you ev - 'ry - where.
 deem - ing soul and bod - y By wa - ter and the Word.
 veal - ing in our wit - ness The Mas - ter Teach - er's art.
 heav'n and earth your pow - er Shall bring God's king - dom here.