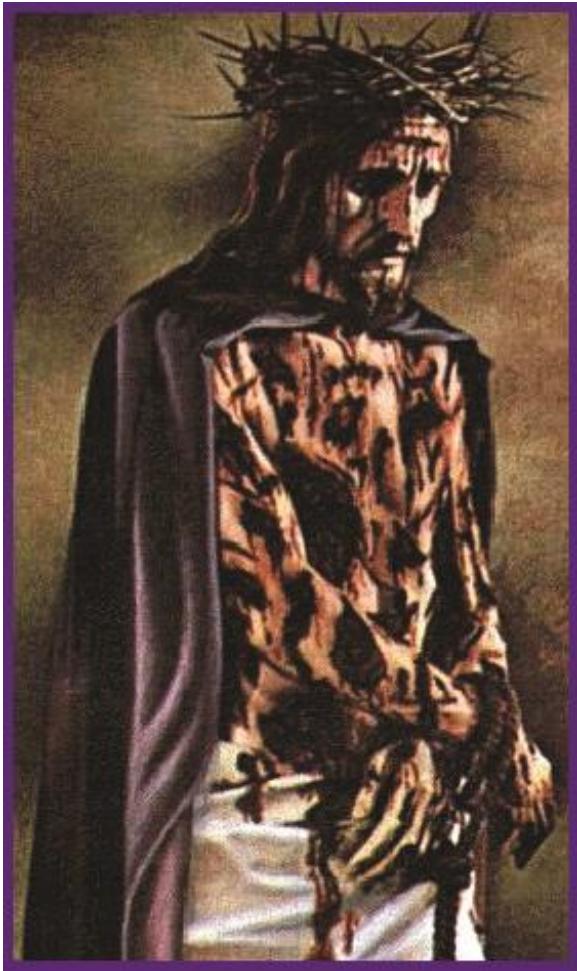


WHICH GROUP DO YOU BELONG TO?



I looked for someone that would comfort Me, and I found none!

there is scarcely one to be found, as was revealed to several saints.” (St. Louis de Montfort, *Letter to Friends of the Cross*).

“Jesus said to all: ‘If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me!’” (Luke 9:23).

“And he that taketh not up his cross, and followeth Me, is not worthy of Me” (Matthew 10:38).

“You cannot serve God and mammon!” (Matthew 6:24).

“Love not the world, nor the things which are in the world. If any man love the world, the charity of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).

“Know you not that the friendship of this world is the enemy of God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of this world, becometh an enemy of God!” (James 4:4).

“There are two groups that appear before you each day, the followers of Christ and the followers of the world. There is only a handful of people who follow Christ. The world’s group, the devil’s in fact, is far superior in number and seemingly far more colorful and splendid in array. Fashionable folk are in a hurry to enlist, the highways are overcrowded, they are broad and ever broadening with the crowds that flow through in a torrent. These roads are bordered with all kinds of amusements and attractions. *“Enjoy life, peace and pleasure!”* they shout, *“Let us eat, let us drink, let us sing, let us dance, let us play! God is good! He did not make us to damn us! God does not forbid us to enjoy ourselves!”*

A Friend of the Cross is one chosen by God from among ten thousand ... A Friend of the Cross triumphs over the devil, the world and the flesh. He overthrows the pride of Satan by his love for humiliation; he triumphs over the world’s greed by his love for poverty; and he restrains the sensuality of the flesh by his love for suffering.

A Friend of the Cross is a man separated from visible things. His heart is lifted high above all that is frail and perishable; “his conversation is in Heaven” (Philippians 3:20); he journeys here below like a stranger and pilgrim. He keeps his heart free from the world and disdainfully tramples it under foot.

“Those who are willing to be made conformable to the crucified Christ by carrying their cross are few in number. It would cause us to faint away from grief to learn how surprisingly small is their number. It is so small that among ten thousand people

there is scarcely one to be found, as was revealed to several saints.” (St. Louis de Montfort, *Letter to Friends of the Cross*).