

Calm Dignity Amid Great Adversity

April 16, 2021

Lourdes Pinto

This reflection is based on the message from the Lord in March of 2021:

*The time is quickly approaching in which you will be judged as My followers. Do not be afraid, My little one, for I have walked this path before you. You, too, will approach your persecutors with “**calm dignity**.” The time draws near for the great sifting of mankind. All will have to choose to believe and follow Me or forsake Me and walk away. The few that remain faithful to their God and Savior will usher in the Eucharistic Reign of My Kingdom, but before this takes place, much blood will be shed. My little one, prepare my mustard seed for the great shake-up so that my remnant of followers can give Me testimony through their calm dignity amid great adversity. Know that I am with you, guiding you and filling you with My life. Continue to persevere as My prophet of these end times. (3/16/21)*

I have been pondering these words from our Lord and feel the responsibility that the Lord is giving me, as your spiritual mother, to prepare each one of His little mustard seeds to be His remnant of faithful followers. I’ve spent most of this month meditating on the words, *calm dignity*. They come from the Dolorous Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ by Saint Catherine Emmerich; I have been pondering on the passion of the Lord a little bit each day. I came across two pages in which Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich speaks about the calm dignity of our Lord:

He (meaning Jesus) would have been perfectly unrecognizable even to her (Mary’s) maternal eyes, stripped as He was of all save a torn remnant of His garment, had she not instantly marked the contrast between His behavior and that of His vile tormentors. He alone in the midst of persecution and suffering looked calm and resigned and far from returning blow for blow, never raised His hands, but in acts of supplication to His Eternal Father, for the pardon of his enemies. (p.187)

The brutal guards dragged our Lord up the marble staircase and led Him to the end of the terrace from where Pilate was conferring with the Jewish priests. The Roman governor had often heard of Jesus, although he had never seen Him, and now he was perfectly astonished at the calm dignity of deportment of a man brought before him in so pitiable a condition. (p.194)

As I meditated on these words, what stood out to me was Jesus’ *calm dignity* amid such incredible suffering and persecution.

Jesus is entirely abandoned in His Father. He lives consumed in the Father’s love—fully receiving His love and fully returning love to the Father. This divine embrace is the Holy Spirit, the fire of consuming Love, the zeal of Jesus’ Heart. He knows the Father’s love and His perfect plan of salvation.

Jesus knows who He is as the Father's Son. He also knows His purpose as the Son of Man is to fulfill the Father's Will through His death and resurrection. In this act of love, He glorifies the Father by making Him known to us so that we may be saved.

This consuming love is the driving force to complete His mission. His consuming desire is to draw each of us to Himself when He is lifted on the Cross so that we can become a new creation. This fills him with *calm dignity*.

Calm dignity in silence

His *calm dignity* is expressed in His silence, a silence that holds within an intense and consuming love, a silence that is an expression of His agonizing prayer of intercession for us before the Father. His silence is His perfect *fiat* to His Father and complete commitment to our salvation. Through His silence, in His *calm dignity*, He invites us to enter His gaze and, through it, be drawn into His Heart to be touched by Mercy. Jesus' *calm dignity* during His passion reveals to humanity how He lives the commandment He gave His apostles during the last supper.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:34-35)

Love beyond our physical capacity

This new commandment to love is placed in John's Gospel between Judas' foretold betrayal and Peter's denial. Jesus is teaching us, His disciples, that we must choose love as He did in our most extreme pain, betrayal, and abandonment. Jesus tells us in the *Simple Path*:

The love of God will stretch your love beyond your physical capacities. The expansion of the tent of your hearts is the most painful process. You have to choose to love those most difficult to love. You must always choose love, patience, and tenderness and never give in to anger and resentment. (#106, p.294)

His *calm dignity* is the Light in the darkness, the Light of Love, the Holy Spirit. He teaches humanity through His *calm dignity* what the fruits of the Spirit look like. As St. Paul would later express to the Galatians, "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." (Gal 5:22-23).

His saints are formed in *calm dignity*

He leads us with *calm dignity* through the narrow path of the Cross to new life. Those who belong to Christ Jesus will allow the Holy Spirit to crucify their flesh with its passions and desires (Gal 5:24) to become His light in the darkness, giving testimony of Him through their *calm dignity*. **Amid great adversity, a victim soul must be formed in the school of the Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.**

As His *calm dignity* speaks through silence a lesson of Divine Love, so shall we enter the **silence of contemplation before the Blessed Sacrament.**

Saints are exemplars of *calm dignity* lived through extreme trials. One great example is **Maximilian Kolbe**. He saw himself as a spiritual warrior, a soldier for God, and no place would stretch his faith more than Auschwitz. As God's soldiers, we

must learn, like Maximilian Kolbe, how to respond to situations God may permit in which our world is shaken as we face hatred and extreme adversity. The guards made Maximilian Kolbe a target, frequently beating and mocking him or assigning impossible physical labor. But according to accounts of fellow prisoners, Kolbe never flinched in the face of evil and never returned the hatred of his abusers. Instead, he retained his dignity and exhibited forgiveness and grace, relying on his faith for strength—*calm dignity*. Shortly before his death, he wrote to his mother, “Good God is everywhere and provides for everything with love.” Imagine the terrible darkness of Auschwitz, and Saint Maximilian sees the goodness of God and His love. In August, there was an alleged escape from the camp, and Nazi guards seeking to teach the prisoners a lesson selected ten men for a terrible death by starvation in an underground bunker. Kolbe was not selected, but when a family man asked the guards for mercy, Kolbe granted stepped forward and took his place. Like Jesús, Kolbe was stripped of all his clothing and went to his death naked. Over the next two weeks, Kolbe is said to have led his fellow prisoners in song and prayer; and when the others died and Kolbe remained alive, despite having no food or water, he was injected with a lethal dose of carbolic acid.

A second example is that of a boy, **Saint Jose Luis Sanchez Del Rio** of Mexico. During a battle, Jose was captured and told to deny his faith and the *Cristero* cause. Jose refused and was tortured terribly. Refusing to renounce his faith, he angered the government soldiers so much that they cut off the bottom of his feet. As Jose was forced to walk through town, he recited the rosary, prayed for his enemies, sang songs to our Lady of Guadalupe, and proclaimed, “I will never give in. Viva Cristo Rey!” He died at the age of fourteen.

The Lord is telling Love Crucified, amid great adversity, “My followers will give testimony to Me through their *calm dignity*.” My family, our Lord, has been preparing us. The goal of the Simple Path to Union with God is to make us one with God so that in the worst of persecution, in an environment of brutality and darkness and great evil, His followers will shine with His light because it is Jesus Himself that will radiate the light of God through His *calm dignity*.

We learn **abandonment** from Jesus’ *calm dignity* as He was entirely abandoned to His Father. We need to grow in abandonment. How do we do that? By living in **silence** and **calm dignity**, abandoned to God in the trials of our daily life, when we are misunderstood, ignored, humiliated, and even when we lose a job, whatever it may be, abandoned. Jesus knows the Father’s love and His perfect plan of salvation. Through the *Path*, Jesus brings us to know ourselves and to know Him, and through Him, Abba, Our Father. We must know and experience the consuming love of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, so profoundly that nothing can shake our faith in the love of God for us.

Jesus knows who He is and His purpose. How much has the Lord, through the years, formed us, His little mustard seeds, to know our purpose and mission, to know our identity, who we are, chosen by Him! If we are not anchored in understanding our identity and mission, it will be tough to love in times of darkness.

Jesus’ love is consuming. It’s the driving force that moves Him—the Holy Spirit. We need to begin to prepare for Pentecost Sunday. We need to beg the Holy Spirit to form us, inflame us, and consume us with the fire of His love so that we can give Jesus’ testimony amid the darkness we have entered. Our consuming desire must more and more become to die with Christ, to be crucified with Him, to enter deeper silence; Jesus’ *calm dignity* is expressed in His silence.

My community, take this message from the Lord to heart, to prayer; let it be the guiding light for each of us in our preparation for Pentecost. Let us end with a prayer to the Holy Spirit:

We thank you, Jesus, for your gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit flowed from the Blood and Water of Your Pierced Heart. We open our hearts, as You have taught us, to be vulnerable, transparent, naked before you, Jesus, to be consumed by your Spirit, so that love may be the moving force that brings us the courage to die solely for love, as one with You, our Beloved Jesus Crucified, for the glory of God and the salvation of the world.