

Sidewalk Contemplatives at Calvary

Every abortion clinic is a modern day Calvary. On Good Friday on a hill just outside Jerusalem the Most Precious Blood of the innocent Son of God was shed for our salvation. And every day in abortion clinics throughout the world the blood of innocent children is being shed. When we go to pray at these places, we are in some way entering into the mystery of the Passion of our Lord as He continues to suffer in the children who are rejected and murdered. We remember His words: "whatever you do to the least, you do to me."

The challenge we face, therefore, is not to be protesters but to be Sidewalk Contemplatives at Calvary. The challenge is to remove from our presence, while we are outside of the abortion centers, anything that would prevent those going to or working in the abortion 'clinics' from experiencing in us the unconditional merciful love of God for them.

We are commissioned by God, to be faithful ambassadors of the merciful, unconditional, everlasting love of Christ for all those coming to the Modern-Day Calvary, which tragically is not far today from where any one of us lives.

Even more important than being at the abortion clinic, however, is the challenge of being there in the right way. The persons whose examples teach us best, how to be at our own modern-day Golgotha, remain of course, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, John, the beloved disciple, and the holy women who were at the foot of the Cross and, above all, Jesus who hung on the Cross.

They teach us that conversion is the fruit of sacrifice and prayer. They show us the power of solidarity and compassion. They did not cry out in anger at those who crucified Jesus. Rather, like Him, they offered forgiveness to their enemies and manifested confidence in God's Providence even in that dark hour. So too for us who pray at Calvary—we must remove, as best we can, feelings of anger and condemnation and instead try to reflect to all the love of Christ.

- Talk by Fr. Fidelis, CFR (based on insights from Msgr. Philip Reilly)