

GOSPEL: (Mk 9:30-37)

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.” But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”

ST. FAUSTINA NOTED IN HER DIARY (D. 1487)

Jesus: Talk to Me simply, as a friend to a friend. Tell Me now, My child, what hinders you from advancing in holiness?

Soul: Poor health detains me on the way to holiness. I cannot fulfill my duties. I am as useless as an extra wheel on a wagon. I cannot mortify myself or fast to any extent, as the saints did. Furthermore, nobody believes I am sick, so that mental pain is added to those of the body, and I am often humiliated. Jesus, how can anyone become holy in such circumstances?

Jesus: True, My child, all that is painful. But **there is no way to heaven except the way of the cross. I followed it first. You must learn that it is the shortest and surest way.**

- ➔ “But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.”
Jesus invites me to a relationship. He wants me to talk to Him as friend to Friend.
- ➔ Is there anything I am afraid to ask Jesus about? Do I also take up topics that are difficult for me, such as the cross, pain, suffering?
- ➔ I will ask the Holy Spirit for the grace to understand that there is no way to heaven except the way of the cross, shortest and surest way.