

March 5

St. John Joseph Calosinto of the Cross

Good day, good people. May the Lord give you peace!

There are some individuals who rise to the occasion no matter what the task. John Joseph Calosinto of the Cross was just such a person. Spending most of his life in Naples, Italy, in the 17th century, the work of rebuilding the Church and the Order fell upon his reluctant shoulders. His religious name foreshadows his understanding of God. Severe ascetical practices both exterior and interior were at the core to his spiritual life. It is said that he practiced self-inflicted injuries so that he could closely unite with the sufferings of Christ. He also believed that following the will of God required abandoning one's own desires. It was the spirituality of the time and he is recognized as someone who lived his life completely devoted to the cross of Christ.



While we do not practice the severe asceticism lived by John Joseph Calosinto of the Cross, there are Christians who are no less devoted to the gospel words, "take up your cross and follow me." The form this message takes is different, but no less demanding. Examples include putting the safety of their lives in jeopardy when they stand with those who are abandoned and/or considered unimportant. Others sacrifice aspirations to care for their children or attend to sick parents. Still others carry an interior cross that comes with criticism and misunderstandings. The terrible and pervasive experience of loneliness is a cross that robs one of the opportunity for living an abundant life.

Let us pray.

Lord Almighty! You have suffered death at the cross for our sins. Holy Cross of Jesus! Be my true light. Holy Cross of Jesus! Fill my soul with good thoughts. Holy Cross! Help me in my salvation. Holy Cross! Safeguard me against unholy thoughts and worldly dangers that I may worship the Holy Cross of Jesus of Nazareth crucified. Have mercy on me. Holy Cross of Jesus! Be my hope. Amen.

John Joseph Calosinto of the Cross earnestly strived to be a friend of God. He is the company we welcome today.