

## Notes from the Liturgist, Ace Tupasi

### **“Suffering” in the Light of “La Pieta”**

Michelangelo at age 24, sculpted the Pieta from a single block of marble. It is the only one he ever signed. What he hoped to convey in the Pieta was what the term really meant: pity, sorrow.

It is said that he had been criticized for having portrayed the Virgin Mary as too young since she actually must have been around 45-50 years old when Jesus died. He answered that he did so deliberately because the effects of time could not mar the virginal features of this, the most blessed of women. He also said that he was thinking of his own mother's face, for he was only five when she died: the mother's face is a symbol of eternal youth.

If you are going through a hard time, look at a crucifix, or meditate on this sculpture. This earthly life is filled with great joy and great suffering. We are all on this journey that can sometimes seem unbearable. Embrace your cross, trust, and know that God loves you eternal-ly, our Blessed Mother understands your pain, and you are not alone.