

Notes from the Liturgist, Ace Tupasi

“Suffering” in the Light of “La Pieta”

God always brings good out of suffering – even if it means because of what you are going through, someone else is praying more, loving more or turning back to God. Remember, God is outside of time, and His love for us is eternal.

God heals us eternally but this doesn't mean we won't suffer greatly, some, tragically, more than others, while on this earth.

Sometimes when we experience suffering it is a big wake-up call that reminds us that we are all on this earth for a relatively short time. You never know when your life or a loved one's life will end.

Suffering reminds us how much we need God and how often we are not in control. It reminds us how we need to give God more attention, love Him, and love one another more. It reminds us we need to forgive more, pray more, listen more, talk less and be really present in each other's lives. Suffering can make us more compassionate and sympathetic to others, with a greater capacity to love. Spend time, not money, on the people you love. Life is beautiful but way too short to spend it on things that don't matter.

The Pieta is a representation of the horrific nature of Jesus' crucifixion, and the reality of a mother losing her child. The death of Christ is essential to Christian doctrine and the juxtaposition of Christ's human and divine nature is alive in the Pieta.