



Do we really believe that God is at work in our ordinary everyday lives?

Normally, we don't see our everyday labor as holy, seeing what we do each day as sharing in God's work for this world. Do we recognize the work of our carpenters, bricklayers, plumbers, accountants, secretaries, nurses, teachers, doctors, house cleaners, window washers, maintenance people, waiters and waitresses, bookkeepers, lawyers, and

_____? (You fill in the blank.)

Carrying the cross has been said to have been distorted over time. We think of it only in terms of illness, death, physical and emotional conditions, stressful relationships in our family or community.

In reality **"Carrying Our Cross"** is about what we do voluntarily every day because of our commitment to Christ. The Cross is about our way of life. Washing clothes, cooking meals, going to the store, running errands for family, taking kids to a soccer game are all part of our way of life. We can disconnect our daily life from our Sunday life – but for us it is important to recognize that what we do each day matters to God, and really makes a difference in the lives of others each day.

Our attitude – disposition - must be that of Christ. The challenge is allowing that attitude to become more than a pious meditation or only something that we think about on Sunday. It means accepting the mission of Christ and the values of God's reign – discerning carefully the values of our culture. Again, this has profound implications for us and how we live each day. The cross is the symbol of the Servant Christ and it should be impossible to look at the cross and remain detached from our daily life - if we accept a servant's attitude. L Gaetano