

Mary

In the person of Mary, the mother of Christ, the prophecy of the aged Simeon in Luke's gospel is fulfilled: "Thy own soul a sword shall pierce".

In filmmaker Mel Gibson's masterpiece, "The Passion of the Christ", He places a woman, Mary, at the center of Christ's last hours, suffering along with him as only a mother can. In one unforgettable scene, Mary comes running to Jesus, saying, "I'm here, I'm here". She saw him so changed and deformed that she could barely recognize him. Christ was suffering and Mary was suffering with Him.

Words from the Old Testament Book of Lamentations come to mind: "Come, all you who pass by the way, pay attention and see: Is there any pain like my pain which has been ruthlessly inflicted upon me. (Lam. 1:12)".

In a song written and sung by the recording artist, Bruce Springsteen, he imagines Mary walking beside Jesus and remembering her protective feelings toward him as a child. The song ends with another imagined scene when Jesus kisses his mother and says, "Mother, still your tears".

On the day of Our Lord's crucifixion his disciples, with the noble exception of John, abandoned Him. Mary did not flee in fear. She stayed there with a mother's courage, a mother's fidelity, a mother's goodness and a faith that did not waver in the hour of darkness. (Pope Benedict XVI)

The drama of Christ's Passion continues to unfold in Ukraine, an Eastern European country. The young sons of mothers, having died in the conflict, are mourned by the women who carried them in their wombs.

In her splendid reflections on the Stations of the Cross, English mystic Caryl Houselander, writes of a mother's pain and sorrow:

"Every woman who sees her child suffer, every woman who is separated from her child, every woman who must stand by helpless and sees her child die, every woman who echoes the old cry "Why, why my child? Has the answer from the mother of Christ. She can look at the child through Mary's eyes, she can know the answer with Mary's mind; she can accept suffering with Mary's will."

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, the mother of a United States President and a senator, in speaking near the end about all the tragedies she endured in her long life, said she constantly found inspiration and consolation above all in the Blessed Mother, who had never lost her faith in God even when her son had been 'crucified and reviled'.

The mother of Christ is truly Our Lady of Sorrows.