

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 11/12, 2017 – Reflection – The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

God knows.

God knows I try.

God knows how hard I work.

God knows I'm tellin' the truth.

The phrase means, "as *God is my witness*" or "may *God strike me dead if I'm lyin'*;" but, for many of us ... "God knows!" is sometimes just a pious platitude hiding a really big question - "DOES *God know?*"

For Catholics, the walls of our churches remind us at least fourteen times that *God, indeed, does know ... know what it feels like to fear and hurt and fall And weep and struggle and die. We call these reminders the Stations of the Cross - fourteen places Jesus stopped on His march to Calvary.*

They could just as easily be fourteen proofs that *God knows how you feel when faced with sickness or suffering:*

1. *Pilate's Condemnation - you sit in a doctor's office and hear a frightening diagnosis ... God knows;*
2. *Jesus Takes Up His Cross - you bear the burden of illness ... God knows;*

3. The First Fall - you shed tears, feel so depressed that it's a struggle just to get outta bed ... God knows;
4. Jesus Meets His Mother - family, your kids wanna help but feel helpless and worried ... God knows;
5. Simon of Cyrene Helps - others in the same boat offer advice from their experience ... God knows
6. Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face - nurses take care of the worst jobs and don't seem to mind ... God knows;
7. The Second Fall - when there's a setback ... God knows;
8. Jesus Meets the Women - friends avoid you 'cause they don't know what to say, what to do, and they're afraid they'll get what you got ... God knows;
9. The Third Fall - you have no appetite, stop eating ... God knows;
10. Jesus Is Stripped - all the indignities you go through, no privacy ... God knows;
11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross - the pain comes at you in waves like vultures circling ... God knows;
12. Jesus Dies - you feel alone, feel very mortal, filled with doubts ... God knows;
13. The Pieta - you see the worried, sad eyes of the ones you love ... God knows;
14. The Burial - you see a gravestone with your name engraved on it just waiting for a date ... God knows.

God knows and He's invited us this afternoon to be touched - to be anointed - to be supported - to be strengthened - to let us know that He knows - He cares - He walks with us - and, if it gets too hard, He'll carry us.

God knows. God knows!