

## Fr. O'Connor's Homily for July 5, 2020

When Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you", is he talking about the yellow part of the egg? No, He's talking about a yoke, a wooden crosspiece that is fashioned over the necks of 2 animals and attached to the plow or cart that they are to pull. So when Jesus says, "take my yoke upon you", He is inviting us to stop pulling our burdens alone. He is telling us He will pull our burdens right alongside of us. You don't have to pull alone.

Now oxen pulling a burden side by side have to work together. If they pull separately they really foul things up, they even tip over. But if they pull together the burden becomes easy and light. They can do it!

Now many of you are carrying very heavy burdens. You may have a child who resents you, who won't even speak to you. You may have lost a spouse or a dear friend and the pain won't go away. You may have cancer or some other life threatening illness and it worries you to death.

Jesus is asking you, almost begging you, take my yoke. You and I, together we can carry this burden. So many of us are unhappy because we won't accept help. We won't let Jesus carry our burden with us.

As Jesus hung on the cross He cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me", but then the yoking, "Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit". Jesus yoked Himself to His Father, "Into your hands I commend my Spirit."

What causes us the most unhappiness in life is our hesitancy, our fear, our refusal to yoke ourselves with Jesus, to abandon ourselves to Jesus. At the heart of Jesus' life was His abandonment to the will of His Father.

Without taking on the yoke of Jesus, without abandoning ourselves to God, we will have no true happiness. It is so easy and yet we are petrified to do it. We guard so jealously what we believe is our freedom. But that fear of losing our freedom is what causes us to lose our freedom and our happiness. Please pray about abandoning your will to God. Think about it.

This is what the Mass is all about; "this is My Body given for you, this is My Blood poured out for you". This is the sacrament of Penance; Father, I have sinned against you. "Your sins are forgiven. Go and sin no more". "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit". "Come to me all who are in labor and are burdened and I will give you rest. Take My yoke \_ trust me, pull with me, abandon yourself to me, you will find rest". "My yoke is easy, my burden light."

Abandon yourself to God, to Jesus.