

HUKSTER

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No Christian in his right mind will deny that if means exist by which human distress can be either averted or moderated, such means are to be not only heartily welcomed but energetically sought. The question is, what is a man to do when he encounters the affliction which is neither escapable nor reducible? For answer, Mother Church points to her Lord Christ as He gazes steadily into His own mortal future and quietly discloses what He reads there. "He will be given up to the Gentiles, and mocked, and beaten, and spat upon; they will scourge Him, and they will kill Him." Without illusion, yet without hesitation, the Savior moves forward to His dreadful destiny. The argument was complete by the apostle Peter as he urged patience upon all who must endure pain: "Indeed, you are engaged to this by the call of Christ; He suffered for our sakes, and left you His own example; you were to follow in His footsteps."

As for self - denial, the Christian view could not be expressed more unequivocally than it was by the Founder Himself. "If any man has a mind to come My way, let him renounce self, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Notice the condition: "If any man has a mind to come my way..." Most certainly there are other ways. Yet one need not be a Christian or even particularly religious in order to wonder about those other ways. Are we not witness in our own day to the ease of transition from the pleas: "Do not, I beg, ask me to frustrate on this occasion the burning desire I feel," to the contention, "I have an unqualified right to satisfy my desires when and as I choose?" It is so puzzling that there is not wider recognition that satiety, for human appetites, becomes an increasingly temporary thing. It is also ironic that we also applaud courage in suffering and self-discipline in a just cause and then let the matter rest.

So, another Lent. For all who love Christ and heed the church, nothing more need be said.

ADVANCEMENT CHANCES DIM

Navy personnel who took the February service-wide examinations earlier this month face the probability that there may be no May promotions to chief petty officer and a minimum advancement to lesser pay grades.

In the February 12 issue of Navy Times, manpower planners for the Navy are said to be fighting a losing battle in keeping within the personnel limitations drafted by the Department of Defense.

DOD says that the Navy can have no more than 323,021 petty officers at the end of fiscal year 1963, which is

June 30. Also, the Department says there can be an average of no greater in-petty officer strength than 309,000 during the fiscal year 1964. A drastic cut in the next few months must occur to meet this limit.

According to Navy Times, CPO promotions will depend upon how successful the Navy is in persuading the Defense people into letting them exceed the established limit. Promotions for other pay grades, especially E-4, will also be determined on what decision is made in Washington.