

# The Pray More Advent Retreat

Inspiring talks to help you  
prepare to celebrate the  
birth of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ



## Back to the Basics, Part III Jesus and the Cross

By Jon Leonetti

The road is narrow. He who wishes to travel it more easily must cast off all things and use the cross as his cane. In other words, he must be truly resolved to suffer willingly for the love of God in all things. – St. John of the Cross

There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us. And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfillment in the resurrection. This is our faith. This is our witness before the world. – St. John Paul II

### Reflective Questions

1. There is no Easter Sunday without Good Friday. Unless we accept the cross we have in our lives, we won't make it to that Easter Sunday... Have you accepted the crosses in your life? How are you carrying them? Are you doing it willingly for our Lord, or begrudgingly?
2. Have the crosses you've had to carry in your life ever led you closer to Jesus? How have they done that? How can you entrust that the ones you're carrying today will do that too?
3. When we die to ourselves, we truly find what it means to live. How is God calling you to die to yourself this season?
4. Our Lord wants to enter into a relationship with you -- to love you and have you love Him. In what ways have you made it harder for God to do this with you?