

**Offering Up Our Sufferings & Uniting Them to the Cross
With Sr. Orienne Pietra Rene**

Reflective Questions

“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church,” Col. 1:24.

1. Sr. Orienne reflects that our first response in times of suffering is often to pray that God takes the suffering away. Do you find yourself responding like this in times of suffering? How can you work on moving beyond this first instinct?
2. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He dreaded the suffering He was about to endure but still submitted Himself to the Father’s will. How can considering Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane influence your attitude toward suffering?
3. When we unite our sufferings to Christ, we can offer them for specific intentions such as a person we know who is suffering or a cause that is close to our heart. What might you offer your sufferings up for?
4. St. Paul referred to a certain suffering of his as a “thorn in the flesh.” Since he didn’t say what this suffering was, we can think of our own sufferings as we consider this Scripture passage. What sufferings of yours can you think of?