

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Lent Lessons from Suffering  
Fr. Frank Schuster  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

My friends, as you know, we are unable to have daily or Sunday mass for the time being due to the epidemic sweeping our area. These reflections are meant to be a way I can still reach out to you, hopefully offering an insight or two on the readings for the day. The readings for the day can be found at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) if you don't have a daily missal handy.

So, here goes. In the first reading for the day, I find it really interesting that a great patriarch like Joseph would have to suffer so much pain and suffering in his life, beginning especially with his brothers selling him off into slavery of all things. And yet, in order to become a great Patriarch, I think Joseph needed to have a moments in his life like that so he could grow in wisdom and grace. In our Gospel reading, Jesus gives us a parable about the Landowners son who is mistreated and killed by the tenants. Jesus is clearly referring to himself and the sacrifice he will give for us and the sake of our salvation. In both the case of Joseph and Jesus, the stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone. This is of course particularly true of Jesus, the Son of God and our Lord, who loved us so much that he died for us. Praying about these reading this morning, I think there may be a number of moments in all of our lives when we suffered somehow and really wish it didn't happen. And although this is not true of every tragedy that befalls u, I wonder if we would be the person we are today if we never had some of these moments? It goes without saying that we live in a culture that wants to eliminate all suffering, but sometimes it is precisely the pruning moments in our lives that become foundational to who we are. And as an aside, I also wonder if the human race will look back on these times of quarantines and pandemics someday and see how this time of suffering became a foundational moment for us as a people. I also wonder if having a crucifix in our worship space and in our homes makes more sense these days than ever. So much to pray about this 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Lent. I believe there is an invitation in our readings today to take some time to pray about the foundational moments in our lives, however painful, and allow the grace of Jesus' sacrifice for us transform them into a new creation. God bless you and consider joining us at 3 PM today for a live stream of the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Instagram at SaintTeresa\_Woodinville. Hope you will join me.