

SUFFERING BRING GLORY

At this midpoint of Lent, which the Orthodox Church designates as **CROSS VENERATION SUNDAY**, the symbol of the Cross is put before us. Let these words by Matthew the Poor serve to strengthen and refresh us:

*“For Christ, the mystery of the Cross is the mystery of his glory. The overwhelming suffering the Lord underwent. His psychological torment at the injustice and crookedness of His trial, the desertion of His disciples, the treachery of Judas, and the knowledge that the high priests had agreed with one of His disciples to put a value of just thirty pieces of silver on His life – all this was a path for Him to leave the world of passing trivialities and enter into the glory of the Father. We in every time and place must tread the same path. The Cross with its enormous suffering cannot be compared with the glory it brought forth. The Cross did not come by chance into the life of the Lord; He was born for it. “For this purpose I have come to this hour”. (John 12:27) Man is born for suffering, and suffering was born for man. But at the same time the Cross was not an irrevocable imposition on the Lord. We feel this from His words and are sure of it in view of His Holiness and Divinity. He made it irrevocable for Himself --“Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given Me?” (John 18:11) – in order to share with us the inevitability of the suffering.*