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Lenten Reflection for Lenten Retreat
Lay Dominicans
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Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink? (Mt 20:22)

Often now in my declining years, I think about this question, because I think about what may be ahead for me as far as suffering is concerned. There are many scenarios for my imagination, not the least is amputation of a limb or limbs due to diabetes, or more serious heart trouble is a possibility. I have had some crosses in my life, with some physical suffering, but mostly crosses of sorrow and distress from events in my life and the lives of my loved ones.

Will I be able to drink from the cup of suffering? Its nice to imagine myself as perfectly accepting and cheerful in the face of suffering, but I haven't really been put to a serious test. Pray for me and for each other that we may persevere to the end in the time of trial and unite our sufferings to those of Christ on the cross for the holy souls in purgatory and for the salvation of souls.

Do you also want to leave? (Jn 6:67)

As you all know, I did leave Jesus for 17 years. I chose a creature over the Creator. God our Father brought me to acute awareness of my abandonment of Him when I went through the abandonment by my spouse through his infidelity. God truly heals the broken hearted. Now that I have been restored to my Father's house I never want to leave. Never, never, never. I cannot presume that on my own strength that I will remain faithful to God, but only through His grace. I beg God for this grace to remain faithful. I pray for this on a daily basis.

Will you lay down your life for me? (Jn 13:38).

In these modern times, martyrdom is a real consideration. Through our baptism we are called to be ready for blood or white martyrdom. But even if we don't die as martyrs, we are called to lay down our lives in so many ways. Our lives are full of opportunities for self-emptying. An examination of conscience at the end of the day is a good way to discern how well we have done in this area.