



## WHY DOES SUFFERING EXIST?



**#102 Why are we too supposed to accept suffering in our lives and thus “take up our cross” and thereby follow Jesus?** Christians should not seek suffering, but when they are confronted with unavoidable suffering, it can become meaningful for them if they unite their sufferings with the sufferings of Christ: “Christ . . . suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps” (1 Pet 2:21). Jesus said, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mk 8:34). Christians have the task of alleviating suffering in the world. Nevertheless, there will still be suffering. In faith we can accept our own suffering and share the suffering of others. In this way human suffering becomes united with the redeeming love of Christ and thus part of the divine power that changes.

## SAINTS & INSPIRATIONAL STORIES

### Paula Fuad

Paula suffered with a painful illness her whole life, and it eventually took her life. She is a great example about how to see suffering with faith and how to grow in a relationship with God even in the midst of pain.



### Blessed Karl Liesner

Blessed Karl Leisner’s life was one that had his fair share of suffering and trials but he was a man always known for his faith and joy. Not even tuberculosis or the Nazi concentration camps could keep him from fulfilling his dream to become a priest. He did not let his pains and sorrows take him off his path in life.



GOSPEL



ANSWERS

So the sisters sent word to him, saying, “Master, the one you love is ill.” When Jesus heard this he said, “This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus

– John 11: 1-44

## ANSWER IN YOUR OWN WORDS: