

Trials and difficulties are a part of life. We don't pursue them; they come our way. Oftentimes they are thrust upon us and we don't like it. Trials and difficulties throw us off balance. They are upsetting. We become disoriented by them. They can overwhelm us.

The writer to the Hebrews accepts trials as a fact of life. What is new, though, is that the writer gives us a unique perspective toward them. He encourages us to see trials as a DISCIPLINE. That's not something we would ordinarily think of doing.

A discipline involves learning. We are being invited to see our trials as opportunities to learn something. We are being nudged to have a new attitude. This can give a whole different meaning to what we daily experience. Our difficulties need not discourage us, but can be a source for our learning.

What are the challenges we are enduring that have been thrust upon us; difficulties we did not seek? Can we think of these in a new way? The GOOD NEWS is: God is with us in whatever we endure. God is calling us to new life through both the good times and the times of trial.

My sisters and brothers today we bring to God our trials, difficulties and hardships....our very lives. Along with the bread and wine, we place them on the altar. Like the bread and wine, we are transformed.