

Years ago after Dad had by-pass surgery, he was advised and encouraged to walk, walk, walk. So, faithfully he would go outside for a variety of daily strolls. Once, when maternal Grandmother, Emma, was staying with my parents, Dad had just returned from one of his walks. He came onto the back porch where Mom, Grandma and I were chatting. All of a sudden, Grandma blurts out to Dad, “I think you’re having an affair.” Dad was visibly hurt and stung as well as shocked and surprised by the remark. Innocent, he had been falsely accused. It took Dad a very long time to get over the hurt.

This week we enter into the mystery of the Lord’s Passion, Death & Resurrection. I invite all of us to recall times that we have been falsely accused, unjustly treated or betrayed; the times when we have been persecuted, ridiculed or teased in a hurtful way; the times we have been mocked, terrorized or shamed.

As we call to mind these experiences, hand them over to Jesus on the cross. As we feel the pain of these memories, hand them over to Jesus—the innocent one. In doing so, Jesus heals us and sets us free. Then we are ready to receive the new life, peace and joy of Easter.