



Office of the Bishop

March 22, 2009

Lenten Weekday

Gerard J. Stanley, Sr. M.D.
700 N Havannah St.
Butler, MO 64730

Dear Dr. Stanley,

Thank you for joining with Fr. Bolderson in providing a lovely reception for me on my visit last month for the dedication of the altar and sanctuary at St. Patrick. I enjoyed meeting you and your family. I am also very thankful for the wonderful signed edition of your book, ***“He Was Crucified: Reflections on the Passion of Christ.”***

As I mentioned at that time, I have been using the text and wonderful reproductions as a part of my Lenten reflection and prayer. In that sense, your gift could not have come at a better time.

You add in many places comments based your own technical knowledge of anatomy. But clearly you have carried out much meaningful research on the methods and practices of the day, and a study, for instance, of the Shroud of Turin. Your choice of texts and pictures is very appropriate as well. It struck me that this project has been a labor of love. The “research” obviously has included much interior searching and prayer.

I believe that when a person has put so much into such a project as to make it an exercise of supernatural faith – building on natural knowledge – the end result is a gift of human art, theological faith, and God’s grace, which has the potential to touch people on as many different levels. I commend you for your perseverance and thank God for your faith.

Please continue to be generous in the care of God’s people – ill and in need. Christ revealed that each of us are worthy of His saving sacrifice and death, a horrible death on the Cross. In your vocation you share the ministry of mercy and the touch of the Divine Physician.

I pray that you and your family will be sustained in every way by the power of Christ’s passionate love, and that you will be filled with the joy and hope of Easter. Pray for me.

In Christ and Mary,

Most Reverend Robert W. Finn
Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph

Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph