

THE TRINITARIAN LOVE

It was 10.30pm last Monday and I was called to Canterbury Hospital. A still-born baby girl just passed away.

My heart was heavy as I entered the room. The mother held her tiny baby and tears streaming on her young face. Grief and sorrow consumed her so completely. The day before was Mother's Day; today, her first lovely baby girl was dead. Her hopes and dreams were shattered in one instant.

I attended many sick calls and celebrated many funerals. But nothing has ever come close to the grief and sorrow that I experienced that night...

And look around. Thousands of Burmese children lost their mothers in a devastating cyclone; in China, doctors had to amputate the legs of a girl while rescuers pulled out the body of another boy, still gripping a pen.

Below the rubble of their school which collapsed in a huge earthquake, 800 other pupils were buried. Parents crowding outside were desperate for news of their own children – their **only** children with China's so-called 'one-child policy'!!!

Why does God allow His creatures to suffer? But St Paul says it is because of the suffering that God endured in not sparing His own Son. We, therefore, as Bruce Wilson suggested in *'The God Who Suffers'*, must shift from this above gnawing question to "Why does God allow **Himself and His creatures** to suffer?"

The only way to understand this is to live out a Trinitarian life: to die to self so that we can give to others what God gave to us.

And St. Augustine called it *capax Dei*-a capacity for God.

Fr Toan Nguyen

