Sunday 10th (C) in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (*Lk* 7,11-17): Jesus went to a town called Naim and many of his disciples went with him —a great number of people. As He reached the gate of the town, a dead man was being carried out. He was the only son of his mother and she was a widow (...). On seeing her, the Lord had pity on her and said, «Don't cry». Then He came up and touched the stretcher and the men who carried it stopped. Jesus then said, «Young man, awake, I tell you». And the dead man got up and began to speak (...).

The pain according to Christianity: suffering with great hope

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, we consider that to accept the "other" who suffers, means that I take up his suffering in such a way that it becomes mine also. Because it has now become a shared suffering, though, in which another person is present, this suffering is penetrated by the light of love. The Latin word "con-solatio", "consolation", expresses this beautifully. It suggests being with the other in his solitude, so that it ceases to be solitude.

God became man in order to suffer-with-man in an utterly real way—in flesh and blood—. Hence in all human suffering we are joined by one who experiences and carries that suffering with us; hence "con-solatio" is present in all suffering, the consolation of God's compassionate love—and so the star of hope rises.

This capacity to suffer depends on the extent of the hope that we bear within us. The saints were able to make the great journey of human existence in the way that Christ had done, because they were brimming with great hope.