

# “Images of Faith & Suffering”



In her new book, *Why the Cross?*, theologian Ligita Ryliškytė speaks of her Lithuanian cultural heritage and her personal experience of living in a country dominated first by the Russian Empire and later by the Soviet Union. Devotion to the cross and the image of “the worried Christ” gave her people comfort in their mourning, and strength to rebel against years of cruel oppression. She says:

“... reflecting on the cross seems to be in the blood of us, Lithuanian Catholics. The famous Hill of Crosses near Šiauliai, the many crosses along our roads, and, finally, the religious symbol par excellence of our country, the wooden figure of Christ shortly before his crucifixion, Rūpintojėlis (The Worried Christ, or The One Who Cares) speak for themselves. In the context of prolonged historical suffering, these symbols express the merging of religious and national affectivity and imagination.”

See “Why the Cross?” in UNDERSTANDING INCARNATION

