



Things to Ponder

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – April 14, 2019

Dear Parish Family,

Every time we proclaim the Passion publicly, I truly feel that I am there! Is there a character with whom you identify most? I can't help but feel one with Peter. I want to be among the first in Jesus' kingdom; yet I am not yet ready to be so identified with him as to want to share his fate. Thus, it is easy to deny him when asked if I am with him! At times, I resonate with Simon, who just happened to be in town for Passover. Was it really just a coincidence that he was asked to help carry the cross? What about Pilate and Herod? Were they not more motivated by the desire to be popular with the crowd? How willing am I to resist peer pressure? Perhaps the most endearing character of Luke's account of the Passion is the good thief. At last someone in this painful story recognizes the true nature of Jesus' kingdom! Jesus' response to the good thief reflects other key uses of the word today:

Luke 2, 11: "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you ..."

Luke 5, 26: "We have seen incredible things today." (healing of paralytic)

Luke 19, 5: "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

Luke 23, 43: "... today you will be with me in Paradise!"

The Passion of Our Lord continues in our own lives; but we echo the prayer of the good thief with the confidence of those now:

"... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2, 10-22)

Blessed Holy Week,

Rev. Bill Foley

The Shrine of The Most Blessed Sacrament
Washington, D.C.

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