

Homily – Palm Sunday

There is much that we can reflect on in the Passion. It is easy to get lost in the personalities, the failings, the lack of courage and the mystery of it all.

However a closer look will reveal the link between Mystery and Passion... Passion is the cornerstone of God's divine plan.

- Jesus submits His will to the will of the Father.
- God has tested His Son so that all can see what was truly in His heart.

The Passion is a call to love God with one's heart, soul, and strength.

- This is how Jesus loves His heavenly Father... perfectly and completely with all of His will, His soul, and His eternal well-being.

The Passion speaks of true love, and true love calls for sacrifice.

- Sacrifice must always result in suffering...
- Suffering is a mystery... the mastery of fate, something undergone and endured willingly.

We have a hard time understanding this kind of love....

The mystery of true love calls us to journey... to go someplace.

- And truthfully... We don't want to go where true love wants to take us...
 - Because true Love always calls us to the altar.
 - To a place of sacrifice.
 - And in our search for comfort, peace and happiness we try to avoid the suffering that sacrifice requires.

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Sacrifice is an act where something dies on behalf of something else.

- Something gives its entire life for the good of something else.
- This is what happens at an altar.
- It is the place of emptying, where the temporary touches the eternal.

Jesus emptied himself on the Cross... Plumbing the uttermost depths of the human situation so that there might be no place that we might go where he has not been before us.

- He is not forced to do this... He chooses it.
- It is His choice to love and His choice to fulfill His Father's will.

Every week we are asked to join Christ in coming to the altar.

- We are being called to love God with our heart, soul, and strength.
- We are called to love Him as Jesus loves Him...
- Perfectly and completely with our entire will, our whole soul, and with all the strength we can muster.

And as we look to the Cross...

- At His hands, at His feet, and at His side.
- We are reminded of this...
- True Love always leaves a significant mark!
 - It did on Jesus...
 - And it will on us, and hopefully on those around us!