

Reflection for Palm Sunday

Perhaps there is no better reflection today than to sit quietly and to read the Passion narrative from Saint Matthew's Gospel for this Palm Sunday, the beginning of this Most Holy of Weeks.

I am reminded of a verse from Chapter 3 of the Book of Lamentations:

"It is good to wait in silence for the Lord to save."

I will try to approach Holy Week in this frame of mind, waiting at the foot of the Cross for the Lord to save me. I will place myself under the torrent of His Mercy, bringing to Him my hopes and fears, my joys and difficulties.

I will ask that this "waiting in silence" will be a fruitful encounter with my crucified Lord. "Waiting" not in the sense of aimlessly passing time, but rather in the sense of "waiting on" my Lord, as Mary and Martha waited on our Lord when He visited them and Lazarus at their home in Bethany. I will wait on my Lord and pour out on Him the costly ointment of my love, my time, my devotion, my grateful heart.

The late Bishop David Konstant in his Stations of the Cross says of the 6th Station where Veronica wipes the Face of Jesus. "This was a simple act of charity, but splendidly heroic and uniquely rewarded... I wonder what I would have done...would I have behaved like Veronica, or Simon or Peter or Judas? But such wondering is fruitless. All I need to ask is whether I do, here and now, behave like Veronica. If I do the reward is the same....I receive the imprint of Christ on my life."

May our waiting in silence bring us to share the joy His resurrection.

"This is what I shall tell my heart, and so recover hope: the favours of the Lord are not all past, His kindnesses are not exhausted; every morning they are renewed; great is His faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:21-23)