

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 29, 2015

OUR HOLY WEEK JOURNEY BEGINS TODAY, PALM SUNDAY.....

*USUALLY, WHEN WE EMBARK ON A JOURNEY IT DEMANDS THAT WE
EMBRACE THE UNKNOWN....*

EVEN OUR DAY IS A JOURNEY, ISN'T IT - INTO THE UNKNOWN....

*THE UNIQUE THING ABOUT HOLY WEEK IS THAT WE THINK WE DO KNOW
ALL ABOUT THE JOURNEY THAT JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES MAKE FROM
PALM SUNDAY TO EASTER....*

*WE BELIEVE WE KNOW HOW THE JOURNEY ENDS - AT LEAST WE HAVE
HEARD THE STORY SO MANY TIMES....*

*WHY DO WE HAVE TO HEAR IT ALL AGAIN THIS YEAR, WE MAY BE
ASKING?*

*WHY GO THROUGH YET ANOTHER ROUND OF HOLY WEEK LITURGIES??
TO EXPERIENCE A MEANINGFUL HOLY WEEK REQUIRES A GREAT LEAP,
NOT ONLY OF FAITH, BUT OF IMAGINATION.....*

*AS WE GO THROUGH THE FAMILIAR READINGS AND RITUALS OF HOLY
WEEK, WE ARE HOPING THAT SOMETHING NEW WILL EMERGE FROM
THESE ANCIENT STORIES...*

*WE ARE SEEKING SOMETHING MORE THAN WHAT'S ON THE SURFACE.....
IN ORDER TO FIND IT WE MUST BEGIN WITH SOMETHING LESS.....*

*I.E. THE HUMBLE JOY OF A CHILD - THE HUMBLE APPROACH OF A CHILD
TODAY AS WE STAND WITH THE GLAD CROWDS WHO WELCOME JESUS
INTO JERUSALEM - MARVELING THAT OUR ORDINARY DAY HAS TURNED*

*EXTRAORDINARY - WITH A HOMEGROWN PARADE AND SINGING AND
DANCING IN THE STREETS*

*HOPEFULLY, RECALLING THE JOYFUL AND SIMPLE FAITH OF OUR
CHILDHOOD....*

*AND WE WILL NEED THAT FAITH AS OUR PALM SUNDAY READINGS
HAVE QUICKLY BROUGHT US TO THE HEART OF SUFFERING....*

*THE PASSION NARRATIVE HAS TAKEN US TO GETHSEMANE WHERE JESUS
IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED - LEADING TO CONDEMNATION AND DEATH
OUR PALM SUNDAY READINGS REMIND US THAT OUR WORLD CAN TURN
ON A DIME.....*

*SUDDEN CHANGES IN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES CAN TAKE US FROM JOY TO
SORROW.....*

*BUT IN EXERCISING OUR GOD GIVEN IMAGINATION AND OUR FAITH THIS
WEEK WE MIGHT ALSO ALLOW OUR GOD TO HELP US SOMEHOW TURN
OUR MOST PAINFUL MOMENTS INTO PRAISE...*

*THAT IS THE JOURNEY OF HOLY WEEK, THAT IS THE JOURNEY OF OUR
LIVES....*

SOMEHOW TURNING OUR PAINFUL MOMENTS INTO PRAISE AND TRUST.....

*LET US PRAY IN THIS EUCHARIST FOR THE INNER GROWTH IN OUR
CAPACITY TO TRANSFORM OUR PAINFUL MOMENTS INTO MOMENTS OF
FAITH AND TRUST, PRAISE AND GRATITUDE....*

LET US NOW IN CLOSING IF YOU WOULD LIKE -

CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A FEW MOMENTS.....

AND AGAIN - IF YOU WOULD LIKE

SELECT A RATHER RECENT AND MANAGEABLE PAINFUL FEELING -

OR A PAINFUL MOMENT - OR PAINFUL SITUATION IN YOUR LIFE

AND LET'S TAKE A MOMENT AS WE BREATHE IN AND OUT TO OFFER

THAT PAINFUL FEELING, THAT PAINFUL MOMENT, THAT

PAINFUL SITUATION IN PRAYER TO OUR GOD

ASKING FOR THE GRACE TO TRANSFORM OUR PAIN INTO GREATER

ACCEPTANCE, GREATER FREEDOM AND GREATER HEALING....

AS WE BREATHE IN AND OUT IN THE SILENCE OF OUR PRAYER FOR A

FEW MOMENTS.....

ASKING FOR GREATER ACCEPTANCE.....

GREATER FREEDOM.....

AND GREATER HEALING.....

(REPEAT)

DURING OUR HOLY WEEK.....

AMEN.....THANK YOU