**“Humility of Christ”**

Today is the first day of Holy Week. We are celebrating Palm and Passion Sunday when Christ rode triumphantly into Jerusalem and later, laid down His life for us. Jesus was welcomed into the City by the people as their King. Jesus came into the City of David not riding in a chariot or on a horse. But in humility, Christ rode in to Jerusalem on a donkey!

As we know, a donkey is a gentle animal that is not as swift as a horse. By doing this, Jesus sent a message to the Jews that He is a meek and humble King. He is a King who does not care about the luxury the world has to offer. He was not dressed in fancy clothes like earthly kings, nor adorned with earthly wealth. On the contrary, He was dressed simply in sandals and wore a tunic not an armor or a breast plate.

Jesus’ entry into the City should have told the Jews that His Kingdom, is not an earthly Kingdom. That He, is a King who does not believe in violence. This should have told them, His battle would not be fought by the use of a sword or any earthly weapon. His battle would not be against flesh and blood, but against the devil and his demons.

It is fitting that as Christ is welcomed into Jerusalem, we also have welcomed Him into our church with palms in hand. Lo and behold, Our Gospel reading for this Mass is about the story of His Passion and death. Then, at the height of our Mass, as we do at every Mass, we represent Him in an unbloody manner to His Father as our sacrificial Lamb.

We heard in our Gospel, how in the garden, He suffered pain and anguish. We heard how He struggled to accept the chalice of suffering offered Him, by His Father. His struggle was similar to our struggle when we are faced with serious temptations. We heard how Judas whom He called friend betrayed Him and Peter denied Him. With our imagination, we can hear in His voice how saddened He was just as we are saddened when a close friend or a relative betray our trust.

We heard about how the same crowd who earlier welcomed Him into the City, who called Him the Messiah, the Son of David, now jeered at Him, and shouted **“Let Him be crucified.”** When soldiers mocked and spat on Him, He was just as humiliated as we feel humiliated when we are been insulted or ridiculed. His pain during His crucifixion, was true torture and His agony on the cross was true torment. He went through all these, fully human and fully divine.

Jesus’ paschal mystery was about His salvific battle with the powers of darkness. It was about the battle that freed us from sin and death. It was about the defeat of sins and death that the devil used in enslaving us. It was about the grace of God bringing salvation to all nations by the death on the cross of His only begotten Son.

This battle was won by Jesus surrendering His will to that of His Father. He laid down His life on His own terms and picked His life up on His own. He laid down His life so we can have eternal life with Him as our brother. By laying down His life, Christ taught us to always follow the will of God in humility and consider others more important than ourselves.

We are also fighting a battle with this terrible Coronavirus. The virus is taking lives from the left and the right. It does not discriminate between the young and the old. However, we must not forget that God allows evil in the world, to bring us back to Him. God is probably reminding us that a family that prays together stay together. Now families are now staying at home getting to know each other and praying together for the end of this disaster.

As we represent the same sacrifice He presented to His Father on Calvary, the sacrifice He said of, **“This is my body… This is my blood,”** let us keep our hearts focused on His Kingdom.

And as we come with the utmost reverence to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us give thanks in our hearts to Jesus for laying down His life for our salvation.