

April 5, 2009

Palm Sunday – Cycle B

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning. And so it begins the holiest week of the year. And again while the world goes crazy, I mean, this week we will still have people that go out on Good Friday and people will still go to movies and everything else, nothing much changes, even for Catholics any more. Catholics have become just like a lot of the other pagans. Just do anything else. But I will go to church Father. Well that is nice. You see this isn't about going to church, this holy week. Even though you better go to church. It is about entering in to this relationship that God has for you and for me. And when we sit there and focus on this there are two things, what God gave us and what we have to respond with. And if you look in our church, our church is one of the most beautiful churches around. You sit there and look at the center of our church is the Trinity. And if you look above there, there is God the Father and for all eternity, if you will, all the time you have ever walked in to this church, here is God the Father holding His Son on the cross giving you and me everything He has. Giving you and me his only boy. The love of his heart. Part of His very essence, His being. And He gives His son for you and me.

And again, sometimes it doesn't click. So often what we need to do to do this is think about someone who we love. Someone we love more than we love ourselves, one of our children, our husband, our wife, our mother, our father, our best friend. And we sit there and watch them go through this suffering and watch them go through all of these things. And if someone you knew and someone you love, was going to suffer this week, you would do everything in your power to be with them. And you would do everything in your power to comfort them. You would do everything in your power. You would be crying with them, you'd be entering this with them if you were any kind of friend if you cared for them. And so that's what must happen when we realize that God gave everything; when we look at the image of the Father, here is God giving you and me all that He has. He has nothing left to give. He gives us His Son.

And so this Lent we celebrate and this holy week we celebrate God gives us everything. What must our response be? We must give Him everything. That's what it has to be. It has to be much more than anything else you have ever done this Lent. You have much more. It has to be you and I coming in and entering in to this week and saying, "Jesus, You gave everything for me. Jesus may I truly give everything for You. May I give You my suffering. May I give you my joys. May I give you my money. May I give you my struggle. May I give you my family. May I give you everything that I have, Lord. This year I hold nothing back because You held nothing back for me. May I hold nothing back from You." Got it? Get it? Going to do it? Let's hope. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.