



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

March 24, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

Reflection from Ben Babaran

Reflecting on Palm Sunday readings while having a retreat in the National Shrine of Our Lady of Snows, I recall a direct message from a very close friend and brother, who passed away last year. His message to me during a special event 40 years ago was: "Some of the 'hosannas' you hear today will turn to jeers of 'crucify him' as you live your ministry."

It is our hope and prayer that when we heard the jeers, it is because we did the will of the Father. However, if the jeers were received because we erred, may we have, with God's grace, the humility to apologize and make amends. Jesus understands this reality so much so that despite the weakness of being human, he became one like us. Jesus also allowed the help and support of diverse individuals when he carried the cross to Calvary.

In the Passion narratives, we encounter those who helped Jesus redeem us like Simon of Cyrene who helped carry the cross, Veronica who wiped Jesus' face, the women of Jerusalem, Mary, his mother, Joseph of Arimathea, the good thief and many more. Participating in Jesus' redemptive acts during the Holy Week is good. Doing those acts all year round is imperative!

Like Veronica, Simon, Mary, Joseph and the women of Jerusalem, there are charitable organizations all over that we can join and help feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, visit the sick and imprisoned, educate children in poverty and work for reconciliation. Here in Midtown Kansas City, we have along Troost Avenue Journey to New Life, Operation Breakthrough, Reconciliation Services, St. Mark Hope and Peace, Al-Inshirah Islamic Center, Bishop Sullivan Center and my favorites: St. James Catholic Church and Troost39 Thrift Store.

May this Holy Week give us the courage and strength to continue Jesus' salvific act in Midtown Kansas City and wherever we may be.

