

**For The Bulletin Of  
March 22, 2015**

## **THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

### ***From Father Robert***

No pain, no gain. We often hear this proverb when faced with doing a difficult, demanding, even sometimes physically painful task. We forge ahead with the painful task because our desire for the end result is stronger than our impulse to avoid pain. A huge amount of medication costs are given over to relieving physical pain. Mental health professionals help us deal with emotional pain. Spiritual directors help us deal with spiritual pain.

In today's gospel, Jesus speaks of different kinds of pain. There is the physical pain of His crucifixion, alluded to when He speaks of His being "lifted up from the earth." He also speaks of the pain of dying, of losing our life, of serving Him by following Him. In all this pain, the focus is not on the suffering, but on the fruits that come from being faithful. The dying grain "produces much fruit"; losing one's life now "preserves it for eternal life"; serving brings "honor." In all these examples, Jesus does not so much emphasize the pain, but the gain.

Jesus reveals His "hour...to be glorified" in surprisingly inglorious ways: dying grain, losing life, serving others. Jesus Himself struggled with this: "I am troubled now." Who doesn't? When we focus only on the giving up and the giving over of our lives, however, we fail to take into account the glorification.

We focus on the pain, but not on the gain.

By giving His life over for our salvation, glorification bursts forth. The Father is glorified in the very giving over of the Son. The Son is glorified in giving Himself over to the cross. We are glorified in giving ourselves over to following Jesus to the cross. And this glorification is fullness of Life.

All these images in this gospel lead us to the basic truth of the mystery of salvation, the paschal mystery: by dying to self for the good of others we come to new life. Giving ourselves for the sake of others is never easy. Sometimes it even makes demands on us that seem impossible. Both the gospel and second reading make clear that Jesus did not want to suffer. Gospel: "I am troubled now...save me"; Second Reading: "He offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tear" to His Father. We hear the similar plaintive cry when Jesus prays to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking His Father to save Him from the cup of suffering He must drink. Jesus, however, taught us the most important lesson about the paschal mystery: death (self-giving) is the way – the only way – to fullness of Life. The dying itself is a gift and grace because it is a harbinger of new Life. Our glorification is in the very dying because in dying we fully identify with Jesus, Who passed through death to risen Life. So will we.

### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Self-giving strengthens our faithfulness as a servant-follower of Jesus. We must take up the habit of dying to self for the good of others. This defines what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

When we struggle with dying to self, we are in good company: Jesus Himself was “troubled” by this and cried out to be delivered from it. We don’t enter the paschal mystery as the dying and rising rhythm of our Christian living apart from Jesus. When we do take up the cross and die, not in the physical sense but by laying down our lives in service, we are able to see that the cross is the means of glory – for the Father, for Jesus, ad for us. Our dying to self is hardly the pain of “no pain, no gain.” It is the road to glorification.

How did you hear the scripture readings today? Did they “hit home?” Did they make sense? What will your response be as we enter into this Fifth Week of Lent?

- What troubles me about dying to self is...I resist it because...I am willing to die to self when...
- I am aware of serving Jesus in serving others when...This is easy for me when...This is difficult for me when...
- To be glorified is to...

### ***About Liturgy: Lent, Baptism, and Covenant***

The first reading from the prophet Jeremiah speaks of the covenant God made with the Israelites: “I will be their God and they shall be my people.” Lent is a time of the year when we especially join with those preparing for the Easter Sacraments. Lent is a time for preparing for or renewing our baptismal covenant which makes us the new people of God – the Body of Christ.

We misunderstand covenant if we like it to our notion of contract. When we enter into a contractual agreement with

another the desire is to agree on as even terms as possible – may be even one “putting it over” on the other and making a very good deal. God’s covenants with us are never on even terms – God always gives more than we give. God made Israel the chosen people and gave them a land of plenty and in return all Israel had to do was obey the laws of God. In our baptismal covenant God makes us members of the Body of Christ by instilling in us the divine Life of the Spirit, and in return all we need to do is become a servant follower of Jesus.

Yet we know that we fail in keeping our covenant about as many times as Israel failed! If we constantly keep the terms of the baptismal covenant before us (which is why we renew our baptismal commitment at Easter), then perhaps we will allow the good terms of our covenant with God to entice us to give ourselves over to Gospel living. Lenten penance is to help us gain the discipline of dying to ourselves. Easter glory is a glimpse of what God ultimately has in store for those who keep the covenant by living the paschal mystery.

### ***Commissioning of Pastoral Council***

During our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy this morning, we are Commissioning the Members of our Pastoral Council. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue to assist me in fulfilling the pastoral plan for our parish.

### ***The Third Scrutiny***

Following the homily this morning, the Third and Final Scrutiny will be celebrated for our Elect: **Genevieve, Robert, and Pam.** They will then be dismissed for their continued study of God’s word and the impact this mornings scriptures are having on their

lives. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as well.

### ***Last Deanery Communal Penance Service***

Tomorrow evening, Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> is the last of the Communal Penance Services for this Lent. It is being held at Holy Rosary Church here in Antioch at 7:00 p.m. If you missed any of the previous Communal Penance Liturgies, then this is your opportunity to celebrate the sacrament with your fellow sisters and brothers from throughout our Deanery. Priests from the various parishes will be present to assist with the sacrament and I will be among them.

### ***Chrism Mass***

You are invited to join the Diocese at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass this coming Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. The Oils of the Sick, Catechumens, and Chrism will be blessed and consecrated for use in our parishes throughout the coming year. The procession of parish representatives begins at 6:30 so you will want to be in the cathedral by then. The newly-blessed oils will be returned to our parishes at the conclusion of the liturgy and then presented at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. All Catholics throughout the Diocese are most welcome to attend.

### ***The Last Fish Fry!***

If you haven't been able to join us for the Lenten Friday Fish Fry, then your last opportunity is this coming Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Dinner is served between 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. You may either "dine in" or "drive through." Those who opt to "dine in" are able to purchase beer and wine as well as to receive dessert as a part of their meal. "Lightning Bingo"

is played and is a lot of fun (although you have to keep on the Bingo caller!!!). The Fish Fry is one of the fund raising activities of our Knights of Columbus and all proceeds benefit their outreach programs.

### ***Preparation For Palm Sunday***

Be a part of a wonderful tradition by coming to the parish hall and kitchen this coming Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. to help prepare the palms for Palm Sunday. Palms are cut, washed, dried, and bundled for blessing and distribution at each of the liturgies next weekend. We have many more visitors than usual and as a result, approximately 3,000 palm branches need to be prepared. This is a great way to exercise your Stewardship of both Time and Talent as well as to meet fellow parishioners and make new friends. Please be sure to bring gloves and shears or scissors.

### ***Holy Week Begins Next Weekend***

March 29<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Please note that our schedule for this Sunday as well as Easter is being changed. The times of our liturgies are as follows:  
Saturday Vigil, 5:00 p.m., March 28<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Morning: 8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!** Parking lot security will be provided by our Knights of Columbus to meet the needs of the greater crowds on both of these days.

### ***Holy Week***

There is no week that is more holy to us as Christians than Holy Week. I hope you will make every effort to be with us for most, if not all, of the liturgies that are celebrated. These are our "high holy days." Our schedule is as follows:

Monday of Holy Week, March 30<sup>th</sup>  
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31<sup>st</sup>  
Liturgy of the Word and Holy  
Communion, 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 1<sup>st</sup>  
Holy Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.

***The Great Paschal Triduum***  
**Holy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Evening Mass of the Lord's  
Supper, 7:30 p.m. (*Procession,*  
*Presentation of the Holy Oils,*  
*Liturgy of the Word, Washing of*  
*Feet, Holy Eucharist, Candlelight*  
*Procession to the Altar of Repose,*  
*Adoration until 10:00 p.m.*)

**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Ecumenical Service, "The Seven  
Last Words," 12:00 Noon

**The Solemn Liturgy of the  
Lord's Passion and Death,**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
(*Liturgy of the Word, Veneration*  
*of the Cross, Holy Communion*)

Tenebrae, 7:30 p.m. (*A service of*  
*scripture passages, music, and*  
*Veneration of the Cross*)

**Holy Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Sung Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

**The Great Paschal Vigil,**  
**7:30 p.m.** (*Lighting of the New*  
*Fire, Candlelight Procession,*  
*Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of*  
*Initiation, Renewal of Baptismal*  
*Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy*  
*of the Eucharist; Reception for the*  
*Newly-initiated in the parish hall*  
*following the liturgy*) This service  
is not recommended for infants  
and small children as it lasts  
approximately three hours.

**Easter Day, The Feast of the  
Resurrection of the Lord,**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
Festive Choral Eucharist, 8:00 a.m.  
(*Procession, Liturgy of the Word,*  
*Renewal of Baptismal Promises,*  
*Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy of the*  
*Eucharist*)

Festive Choral Eucharist,  
**10:30 a.m.** (*Procession, Liturgy of*  
*the Word, Renewal of Baptismal*  
*Promises, Sprinkling Rite, Liturgy*  
*of the Eucharist; Parish Choir,*  
*Cantors, Organ; Please note the*  
*change in the time of the liturgy*)

Because there are so many parishioners  
and guests who have both allergies and  
asthma, incense will not be used at any  
of our liturgies.

Parking lot security will be provided by  
our Knights of Columbus. Please  
observe their directions and let them  
how grateful you are for their presence.

***The Easter Environment***

Each year the members of our parish are invited to help create the environment for the Easter Season. Your contributions provide all that is necessary for the environment to say "Easter" for the entire 7 week season. Gifts may be made either in honor of or in loving memory of a family member or friend. Please mark your contribution envelope accordingly as all contributions will be acknowledged in the bulletins of the Easter Season. Thank you.

***Easter Greetings To Archbishop Brunett***

In last week's Insert, I included a wonderful update on the condition of Archbishop Brunett. We were one of the very few parishes that were privileged to have Archbishop Brunett with us for liturgy. After returning to Seattle, he suffered a serious stroke, leaving him paralyzed on the left side. He has made wonderful progress and is once again presiding for Eucharist in the assisted living facility in which he resides.

Please be sure to send him an Easter Card with best wishes and blessings from you and your family. Cards, notes, and letters (even photographs!) may be mailed to him as follows:

Archbishop Alexander Brunett  
Archdiocese of Seattle  
710 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, Washington, 98104-2017

***Thank You***

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Mark Costanza, Carole Miller, Steve Rojek,**

**Alfred Madoshi, Emilia Freking, and Mency Osborne.**

...and thanks as well to those faithful parishioners who also care for and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and hall each week: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Gino Ramos, Steve Rojek, and Harlan Young.**

...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who came together this past Tuesday to prepare the Easter Letter mailing: **Carol Fanfa, Bernice Campbell, Clem Bushman, Emilia Freking, Marguerite Bloomfield, Pat Dunleavy, Judy Quicho, Mena Macedo, Rowena Cayaban, Mila Rodrigo, Mary Kendrick, Geri Chiechi, Anne Peck, Belen Farin, and Lorraine Lohmeier.**

***Congratulations!***

Please join me in extending hardy congratulations to the following brothers who completed their second and third degree this past Saturday. The exemplification was held in our parish hall.

**Second Degree**

Gino Ramos  
Stan Stanek

**Third Degree**

Dwayne Eubanks  
Luis Flores  
Peter Lozano  
Alfred Madoshi  
Monty Paniagua  
Gino Ramos  
Phillip Rios  
Joe Stralovich  
Stan Stanek