



WELLSPRING

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Wellspring Community Outreach

Monday, March 30, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday, we celebrated “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.” Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord is often thought of as the remembering and reliving of the suffering of Jesus. The word passion seems to have the same meaning as suffering. Passion however has a much deeper meaning. It is important for us to note that suffering is only one of the consequences of passion. Passion is an eager interest, a feeling of intense enthusiasm towards or compelling desire or longing for someone or something. Passion is determination, conviction, commitment and love. Passion is a strong desire, a hunger, a thirst and an urgent longing that can move you and get you to do amazing things. Passion can move you through difficult, troublesome and trying times because you don’t care about the cost of fulfilling your desire, satisfying your hunger and thirst, and achieving what you are passionate about.

The real passion of Jesus was not the rejection or the insults or the condemnation or the cross or the suffering or his death – they were the consequence of his real passion. His real passion was doing the will of his Father. Jesus said to his disciples, “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work” (John 4:30) and “I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.” (John 6:38) Jesus taught his disciples to pray, “This is how you are to pray... Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.” (Mathew 6:9-10) And Jesus prayed, “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

The passion of Jesus was the will of his father, and he gave his life for it. His passion moved him to accept the cross and carry it to his death. It is this passion and its consequences that we remember on Palm Sunday. We remember Jesus entering Jerusalem to face rejection and eventual death. He moved, with courage, into hostile territory. He entered a city which killed its prophets and did not know how to receive the things that are for its own good, a city that did not know how to receive blessings and gifts and grace!

They greeted him as they would greet a pilgrim: “Blessed is he who enters in the name of the Lord.” (Psalm 118:26) And they shouted “Hosanna!” “Hosanna” means “Save now.” It was a cry

for help, which a people in distress addressed to their king or their god. "Save us, we beseech thee, O Lord." (Psalm 118:25) Hosanna in the highest means, let even the angels in the highest of heavens cry unto God, "save now." It is essentially an oppressed people's cry to their savior and king for deliverance. These hosannas of Palm Sunday will become the cries of "crucify him, crucify him!"

As we remember the Lord's passion, let us not stop with recalling the events that led to his death. Let us get in touch with our own passion. Let us reflect on what we are passionate about. Is there something deep within us that moves us, urges us, and keeps us going? What gives meaning and direction to our life?

We are often challenged to make difficult choices, face difficult situations and work with difficult people. We can face them only if we really hunger and thirst, if we really desire...if we are really passionate! If we are really passionate and passionately strive for God and God's ways, we will do those things that are difficult and troublesome... even carry the cross if that is what it takes to fulfill God's plan and purpose.

**Be sure to take a few still moments during the week.
Bless yourself with stillness!**

Be Still Moment - Allow yourself to be still for a moment

When you first awaken or before drifting off to sleep, quiet your mind, lift up your heart in prayer, and listen to the voice of the Lord.

Salesian Moment – A moment with St. Francis de Sales

Through devotion, family cares become more peaceful, mutual love more sincere, our service more faithful, and our work more pleasant and agreeable.

Letting go...

A king received two falcons and gave them to his head falconer for training. Months later, the head falconer informed the king that one falcon was flying majestically; the other had not moved from its branch. The king summoned his ministers and sorcerers; none could get the bird to leave the branch. The king promised a reward to the one who would make the falcon fly. Several people tried and failed. One farmer succeeded! The king was thrilled; he asked the farmer what he had done. The farmer replied: "Your Highness, I cut the branch on which the bird was sitting."

If we want to find our place in life, fulfill our purpose in life, realize our dreams, succeed in our business, and follow our passion to fulfillment, we need to learn to let go, get off our branches, leave our comfort zones and be prepared to take the risk that comes with letting go. Great men and women of our history had to let go – Abraham, Moses, Joseph, the prophets, Mary, Joseph, Peter, Paul and above all. Jesus himself had to let go. It is Holy week, and it is a wonderful time for us to reflect on letting go...

A keg of beer and a case of whiskey.....



Before performing a Baptism, the priest approached the young father and said solemnly, “Baptism is a serious step. Are you prepared for it?” “I think so,” the man replied. “My wife has made appetizers and we have a caterer coming to provide plenty of cookies and cakes for all of our guests.” “I don’t mean that,” the priest responded. “I mean, are you prepared spiritually?” “Oh, sure,” came the reply. “I’ve got a keg of beer and a case of whiskey.”

Did you Know?

What is Easter duty?

Easter duty is one of the five precepts of the church. This precept requires Catholics to worthily receive holy communion during Easter time. The Precepts of the Church describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and in living a moral life. The precepts are: Attendance at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; Confession of serious sin at least once a year; Reception of Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season; Observance of the days of fast and abstinence; and Providing for the needs of the Church. However, all Catholics are called to move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor.

Pope Leo XIV.....

Pope to Illinois municipal leaders: Authority must be rooted in service

During a Holy Week audience, on March 30, 2026, Pope Leo XIV highlighted the responsibility of civic leaders to serve the common good, uphold human dignity, and care for the most vulnerable. He said that authority must be understood as service, following the example of Christ, who came “not to be served but to serve.” He added that leaders “are called to be attentive to the needs of the weakest and the most vulnerable in order to assist them towards an integral human development.”

He also emphasized that effective governance requires a real understanding of people's lives. "You must first strive to know people's aspirations as well as their challenges." The Pope expressed gratitude for the daily service offered by those in public office and reminded them that "those in authority are also God's servants." He encouraged them to carry out their responsibilities "with joy, with love, and with zeal."

Pray for each other.....

Let us stay close to each other in spirit and prayer as we continue our journey through life with all its joyful moments as well as moments not so joyful. Be faithful to your calling! All you do may not be successful in your eyes or in the eyes of others. The real success lies in your fidelity to who you are and what you have come to know as your calling. Just be faithful and be joyful!

God bless you and your families,

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

If you don't stand for something, you will fall for everything.

