

Homily

Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018

September 11, 2001; I was driving on the 275 loop on my way back to the office from a customer visit when the news came over the radio. Where were you?

December 7, 1941; my dad was only a toddler in southern Indiana. Where were you?

November 22, 1963; My mom was pregnant with me. Where were you?

April 4, 1968; I was nearly 4 years old, probably just finishing lunch in our small house on Waggoner Avenue. Where were you?

January 28th, 1986; I was at a friend's house between classes and watched the news report on tv. Where were you?

Each year, we remember these horrific dates with quiet thoughts. Most of us remember where we were and what we were doing when they happened, if we are old enough.

None of us were there when Jesus died on the cross, but we remember the event each year when we participate in the Passion narrative like we just did.

The difference is that each of the events I tallied off signified the end of a life or several lives, and the world changed because of those losses.

But the Passion of our Lord recalls a specific sacrifice, a willing and loving gift of His life for ours. It is the pinnacle of Salvation History. It is a reminder of our failings and His Mercy. And the world changed because of Him.

We are reminded of this Mercy when we pray the Stations of the Cross. We are reminded of His Grace given freely to all each time we sign ourselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded of His Love each time we participate in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

It is in remembering His Mercy, Grace and Love that gives us Hope. And that is why we are here today. That is why we come to Mass as often as we can. We have hope in the salvation He Promised us and secured for us in His Passion.

It's also very easy to skip over these special events we remember each year. We remember 9/11 because we hear it on the news. And then life goes on. We remember the Challenger Explosion but then move on to the next order of business. We remember His Passion then go home for the next thing to do.

It is so easy to forget what He did for us. Our lives are busy; we are pulled in many directions because of work commitments, family commitments, social commitments. There's nothing wrong with that. Life is meant to be celebrated. We celebrate our birthdays (mine's in two weeks if anyone is interested). We

gather for special outings with family and friends. We go on vacations. We watch our special tv shows or movies. That's okay and good. God made the world good and to be lived in. He made us very good and gave us dominion over the world for our pleasure and His.

Yet it is important to remember why we are here; why He put us here. He put us here so He can love us and we can love Him and each other. And the ultimate love is Jesus laying down His life for us. And He did this to save us. And that gives us hope.

So today we remember what Christ did for us; we remember that each time we sin, we are at the foot of His cross, laying our sin on Him; we remember Him telling His Father to forgive them for they know not what they do; and we have hope.

So when we leave Mass today and go about our daily lives, if we fall, and we all will fall, will we find ourselves at the foot of His cross, will we remember where we are?