

Homily
Palm Sunday
April 2, 2023

Jesus freely entered into His Passion. He didn't want to, but He knew His Father did. Jesus did what was expected of Him. He submitted to His Father's Will. He accepted verbal abuse, being hit, spat upon, beaten, nearly to the point of death. Then Jesus picked up His cross and walked, all the while loving those who hated Him, forgiving those who hurt Him. And Jesus asks us to do the same. We just shared intimately in the Passion of our Lord. It was horrific; it was violent; it was brutal. Yet we are called to do the same. We are called to submit to God's Will. We are called to embrace our struggles and agonies and still love. We are called to accept abuse and still forgive. We are called to carry our cross.

What does that mean, to carry our cross. How are we to look at the Passion of our Lord and do the same? It starts with God. God created us in His image. We are like God; we are a reflection of the Father. And since God is Love and God is Good, we are a reflection of that. Jesus entered into His Passion out of obedience to His Father and out of love for us. We carry our cross out of obedience to Him and in love for Him. In everything we do, in everything we say, we reflect God and we reflect His love and goodness. We take care of our families. We take care of those around us in need. We look for opportunities to be Christ for one another. All the while maneuvering around the pitfalls of this world.

Life is hard. All of us have our challenges, our difficulties. And we embrace them just as Jesus did, with love and forgiveness. As we celebrate Holy Week, we take the gifts God has given us, we hone them and make them sharp, and we give them back to God in the form of good works, in love and in goodness. And in a week, we celebrate the greatest victory known to all humanity, the defeat of death and the Resurrection to new life. For now, we pick up our cross and love and forgive.