

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Is it Palm or is it Passion Sunday? Actually, this Sunday is both. It is called Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. In my opinion, we should down play the Palm a bit and highlight the Passion.

The Palm plays a role this day in helping us to remember the role of the people in Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The people waved branches to welcome Jesus as a King. By the end of that same week, however, Jesus would endure his Passion as if a common criminal. So the Palm is only good if it helps us to remember the whole week. Holy Week. The week that forever changed the world.

I'm sad to say that sometimes people focus so much on getting Palm branches (blessed as they are) that they forget about the importance of remembering Jesus' saving actions. We can only give thanks for God's love for us, shown so powerfully in the Passion and Death of Jesus, His only begotten Son, if we recall the reason He came into the world. Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full, and He gained eternal life for us by giving us His own life. It is because God took on our human nature in Christ that He was able to raise up our mortal bodies to be like His own in glory. If Jesus did not go before us, we could not follow. If the Son of God did not go through death to the resurrection, neither could we.

The Church beseeches each of us to take advantage of this Holy Week. The hope is that each of us allows God to touch our mind, heart and soul with His grace as we hear again the greatest story ever told. Along with the Mass, the Palms and the Passion can lead us closer, and keep us closer, to Christ. Blessed Holy Week!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*