

Palm Sunday
April 14, 2019

Whenever we experience suffering in our lives it sets us on our feet. There is no neutral or halfhearted response to suffering. The worse the suffering, the more passionate the response. If we've had a bad accident or if we get really sick or if we are deeply hurt or abused, or betrayed we tend to scream out with all our might. Why is this happening to me? What did I do to deserve this?

Suffering comes to us in many different ways. Maybe our car didn't start or we got stuck in the snow and got late for work or school, income taxes are due, there are bills and bullies and poverty and toil, oppression and hate. Well, the list goes on and on and on. We suffer in many different ways, ways that cannot be cured by medicine or doctors. Our suffering finds its roots in our emptiness and our longing to be loved and to love.

Christ's response to our suffering is to heal us. But even more powerful than healing is that Jesus joins us in our suffering. Our loneliness and discouragement is countered by the healing hand of God working in our soul and redeeming our inner spirit. God is with us. He turns our darkness into unbelievable light. All that is necessary is that we open our hearts, receive his grace, and let God do his good work in us.

What a wonderful God who comes to us with all the immense love and mercy that only God can bring. He not only creates us, he not only redeems us and re-creates us, but he forms a bond of oneness with us that is so complete that nothing more is necessary.

Lent has been an austere time during which, through the disciplines of prayer fasting and penance we seek to predispose ourselves to better and more completely receive the awesome grace of Easter. May this Easter be for you the most glorious and awesome Easter ever. Immerse yourself in this coming holy week. Remember, there is no 5 PM mass next Saturday. Instead, we will celebrate the Easter vigil at 8:30 PM next Saturday.

We've had a couple hints of spring. After a long and difficult winter springtime is ready to explode. New life everywhere. So may it be with you this Easter as you are showered with the grace of God.