

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Fr. Ken's "Korner"



Greetings and blessings of the week, I hope that the past week has been a good one for you. Today, as we begin Holy Week, we celebrate



Passion Sunday of the Lord (also more commonly referred to as Palm Sunday) as we commemorate the entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem. How quickly the tide would turn in the course of a few days! This week, Holy Week, -- is **the** week of the Church calendar as we commemorate the sacred mysteries and events that are central to who we are as a people of faith and as a Church. We are all familiar with the events that we recall during this most holy week of the church year. As we reflect upon these moments, we would do well to make them more than merely historical moments and events by making a connection with them that takes it from a historical perspective to one that is personal. Please join us for the Sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. Holy Thursday we focus in upon the gift of the Eucharist that is Jesus Christ as we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. It is also the



night that gives us the scriptural foundation for the sacrament of Holy Orders as Jesus instructed His apostles to do this in memory of Him. These words are prayed by the priest every time that the words of consecration are said. Good Friday we gather for the service of the Lord's Passion. The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the Triduum. It is **the** feast of feasts that gives meaning to the whole mystery of Salvation. These three days are not looked upon as being three different and independent liturgies. Rather, all three of them are linked together and are looked upon as a whole. These liturgies are replete with meaning and liturgical symbolism that touches our senses multiple levels. (How many of you adults can remember



the first time that you took part in the Easter Vigil -- the darkness, the music, the bells, the flowers, the candles glittering and twinkling as the interior of the church was aglow in the subdued candlelight that permeated the evening?) This week the Chrism Mass takes place as the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. It is at this Mass that the Cardinal blesses the oils that will be used in all the parishes of the Archdiocese. These oils are used in the celebrating of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Order and the Sacrament of the Sick.

Tomorrow, March 17th, is St. Patrick's Feast Day. It is of particular significance to Catholics of the Archdiocese of Boston -- be they Irish or not. Saint Patrick, educated in France at a monastery on the island of St. Honorat off the coast of Cannes, prior to his becoming the "Apostle of Ireland", is the patron Saint of the Archdiocese of Boston. Speaking of the Archdiocese of Boston, it is time for another archdiocesan bicentennial blurb. The second bishop of Boston, Benedict Joseph Fenwick, was born in Maryland on September 3, 1782. He along with his brother, Enoch, were sent to Georgetown College (now University) in 1793. In 1805 he entered the Sulpician Seminary at Baltimore to study for the priesthood. The year 1806 marked the restoration of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the U.S. He, along with his brother, was among the few to be



accepted. He was ordained a priest on March 12, 1808. During the next seventeen years he served as a pastor in New York and was the director of its first Catholic Collegiate school. He also served as administrator and vicar-general of the diocese. Subsequently, he was a missionary in South Carolina. Twice he served as president of Georgetown College. He was appointed bishop of Boston on May 10, 1825. He was consecrated in Baltimore on November 1, 1825 and took possession of the see of Boston on December 3, 1825. At that time there were only two priests in the diocese! -- Rev. P. Byrne in Boston and Rev. D. Ryan in New Castle, Maine. There were three churches in total, in addition to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. He set about beginning a seminary to prepare men for the priesthood (among whom, for you Holy Cross alumni, was Fr. Fitton). He also began on September 8, 1829 "...The Jesuit, or Catholic Sentinel", one of the first Catholic papers printed in the United States..." (We now know it as *The Pilot*.) He died August 11, 1846. One of our archdiocesan high schools located in Peabody, Bishop Fenwick, is named in his honor. He was, as "Crusaders" know, the founder of the College of the Holy Cross that was established in Worcester and entrusted to the Jesuits in the year 1843. At the time of his death Boston (all of New England except for the Hartford diocese) had about fifty churches with attendant priests, a college, and orphanage, numerous schools and "a portion of its original territory the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island had been erected into the new see of Hartford on November 28, 1843.



Thank you to all who organized and participated in our parish Forty Hours Devotion that took place last week. It is a moment of singular grace for our parish and provided a wonderful opportunity for people to gather together. I by having the opportunity for quiet and reflective prayer, interspersed with times of public prayer and devotion as well. Happy belated birthday wishes go out to Maureen Melewski whose birthday was on March 3rd, as well as to "Bea" Schaller who celebrated her birthday on Saturday, March 8th.



Kindly remember in your prayers Lucy Goodwin, whose funeral was on Tuesday, March 11th. We also pray for a true gentleman who served our parish with devotion until such time as he was no longer physically able to do so. Charles Keohane succumbed to cancer and died on March 8. His funeral Mass was prayed on Friday, March 14th. Fr. Bailey, a friend and associate of Mr. Keohane for many years presided at the Mass of Christian Burial. Saturday, March 15th, Pauline Williamson was interred at St. Joseph (our parish's) Cemetery. May they rest in peace and may their families find strength and hope in their faith, family, friends, and memories.



May the Lord's blessing smile kindly upon you and your loved ones in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken.