April 13, 2014
Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion

The Different Roads to Christ: At the Crossroads

The road of Lent is quickly coming to an end. Holy Week is here and at the Easter Vigil we will welcome new Catholic Christians as they join us on the road to the Cross and empty tomb. New Christians will be immersed in the fountain of life which flows from the side of the crucified Christ. Faith flowers as we are invited again to peer into the empty tomb with the disciple whom Jesus loved and profess our belief that Jesus is Lord!

We rejoice that at the crossroad of their own lives, people still chose to follow Jesus to the Cross and the tomb of resurrection. They risk in faith that Jesus and His Church will travel with them on the rest of life’s road. They need not fear that Jesus will ever abandon their company, but can they be sure of the members of His body? Will we help our new Catholics to find a welcome shelter when storms come their way? Will we point them in the right direction at the crossroads of their next important decision? Will we wait patiently if they chose the wrong direction? Will we make our new companions aware that we all encounter many crossroads in life? With our hearts a tune to the call of the Risen Lord we are empowered to follow the right path until we come to the last crossroad and we follow the path to eternal life.

_____________________

Though Easter will bring with it the joy of resurrection, let us not forget those Catholics and other people of good will who will have their Lenten penance extended. The Catholics of the Ukraine, the 150,000 innocent people who have died in the conflict in Syria, may not enjoy the spring of new birth. As we enter these holy days there are Christians savagely and indiscriminately retaliating against the violence of Moslems in Africa; again, innocent women and children are slaughtered on both sides. As we enjoy the mystery of new life in Christ we need to pray for all people who are caught in the web of injustice and oppression. We never cease praying for the coming of the kingdom of justice, love and peace.