

Passion Sunday2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, in this Sunday's liturgy, we Passover the Threshold into the mystery of our Redemption in Jesus Christ in Holy Week; however, we do this in each and every Mass we attend. The Mass is not merely a passive action which we attend. It is an active participation by each person, with their own parts to play, in the Divine Mystery of Salvation in the profound mystery of the passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. In our Baptism, you and I were inserted into the Body of Christ, and therefore, into this mystery. In the Eucharist, we participate in the mystery with Christ! We have prepared for forty days to step into this mystery during Holy Week, which culminates in the Resurrection of the Lord. We must not take these mysteries lightly; because they were purchased for us by the very blood of Christ and His suffering!

Today, in the two Gospels, we enter with Jesus into His Passion. The word describes the suffering which He will enter, but also the Passion with which He entered into this week, the same Passion He eternally enters in the Eucharist! The Lord Jesus does not hesitate to enter Jerusalem, even though He knows that this will end in His indescribable torment and suffering, because He knows that this is for our salvation. Today, you and I really enter into this mystery, and we are invited by Him to intentionally be with Him in His Passion for us and for sinful and suffering mankind! In the Offertory of the mass at the Consecration, we are called to give ourselves over to Him, even as He gives Himself over to the Father and to us! At the moment when I lift His Body and then His Blood, He offers Himself to the Father, once again, on our behalf, and at that moment, I always say to Him: "I give myself, surrender myself, abandon myself to You, Who has given yourself, abandoned yourself and surrendered yourself to me! Totus tuus!"

When Jesus entered into Jerusalem on the donkey which He rode, He knew and consciously accepted the consequences, because He was consciously choosing to love us to the very end. I encourage each of you to consciously engage in all of the Mysteries of this Holy Week, especially by participating in Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. As you do, at the Consecration, give yourself

and the whole of your life, consciously into His Hands and with Him, to the
Father!