

Fr. Martin's Reflection – April 2, 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Welcome to Holy Week. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, the triumphant arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. He could do no wrong, loved by all and desired by all – it seemed. Jesus was the miracle worker, the water to wine guy, the one who gives sight to the blind, helps cripples walk and raises the dead to life. How could you not love him?

You and I know not everyone loved Jesus. There were many who despised him because of his popularity, others felt intimidated by him, others felt his theology was a little liberal and was a danger to the faith of the people. And he hung out with all the wrong people.

You and I also know that things haven't changed much today either. There are some who hate Jesus because of his popularity, some feel intimidated by him and still others believe his theology is a little light-weight. The biggest challenge for Jesus today is not those who hate him for whatever reason, but the biggest challenge is those who say that they believe in him but don't show up or stand up for him. Jesus knew very well that this was a possibility; we see this very clearly at the Last Supper when he said, "one of you will betray me, Peter you will deny that you even know me and the rest of you will scatter."

This Holy Week let us not betray Jesus, or deny we know him or scatter when we feel we could get attacked for knowing him. Come and experience Holy Week – the beauty of the Last Supper, the washing of the feet, breaking and sharing the Body of Christ with each other as Jesus did with his disciples. The brutality of Good Friday – the man who stood for "truth" and stated, "All who are on the side of truth listens to my voice." (Jn 18:37). When we feel all is lost – love has turned sour and hope has died – remember there is Easter Sunday – what was lost is found, what was sour has become sweet again, hope springs eternal.

Please, come home this Easter Jesus loves YOU!

Fr. Martin