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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX

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Holy Week

This year I almost had the temptation to go back to the calendar and count the days. Lent is over. Where did it go? Did it last forty days? Here we are, today is Palm Sunday when Catholics around the world start Holy Week to remember and to re-live the most important moments of the history of our Salvation.

I love walking, and often I tend to see and pray with the walking image in my mind. This week we walk with Jesus, and we start walking with Him into the city of Jerusalem. Moments of joy and exultation. Our procession with the Palms is not only a reminder, or reenactment, but mysteriously, through the liturgy, we live it again. We are there with Jesus and the disciples shouting, “Hosanna!”

Monday of Holy Week is Reconciliation Monday; all the Churches of the Archdiocese will be open in the evening to hear confessions. The heart of Jesus is always open to welcome sinners. Maybe this year we can invite someone to Confession that we know has been away, we can offer to meet that person, to escort him or her to Church, to help them to make a good examination of conscience, to pray for them while they make their confession... and later to celebrate with them as they experience the power of the mercy of God. Don't take it as a challenge... but what a beautiful thing it would be to do!

Tuesday of Holy Week all the priests of the Archdiocese will gather at St. Patrick's Cathedral with our Archbishop for the Chrism Mass. It is a moment to renew our promises as priests and to bless the oils that will be used the next year for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. It is also a powerful sign of unity: the same oils for all the Catholics throughout the entire Archdiocese.

On Holy Thursday we walk with Jesus to the Upper Room to celebrate the Last Supper and the washing of the feet of the disciples. At the end of the Mass, we process with the Blessed Sacrament to the place of Repose, more walking with Jesus in our hands.

The Good Friday Stations of the Cross, are probably the highlight of this walk with Jesus. We go out of the Church into the streets of the neighborhood with the Cross, the sign of our Salvation.

God bless,
Father José Félix