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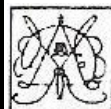
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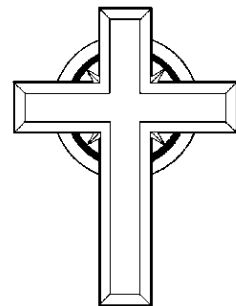


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April 14, 2019
PALM SUNDAY

He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave (Philippians 2: 7)

We start Holy week this weekend on a sad note in our local church in Worcester. Saturday April 6 2019, Bishop Rueger, retired auxiliary bishop of Worcester died. Bishop Rueger was one of the best, beloved and endeared by so many. He was a man of great kindness, simplicity and gentleness (he 'hated' being at the center of attention). His humility was especially powerful and it inspired many priests. He lived simply and shared all he had with those in need.

We pray in a special way for him this weekend as we say 'thank you' for who you were and all you did for us and for a life well lived. May God reward you with the gift of eternity.

Everything about the behavior of Jesus, clearly shows that he is a man on a mission. The mission is to follow through with God's plan to restore hope and life in the world. He is a savior and enters Jerusalem as one. But what kind of Savior is he?

He is a self-emptying savior, a king who rides not on a horse but on a colt. No armies. No servants. Isaiah anticipates him as rather 'the servant himself'. 'I among you as one who serves.' He comes to comfort the weary, to speak a word that is not his own, to open the ear to listen. He will suffer innocently and greatly, that others may not be exploited or treated unjustly. He becomes 'small' (self - sacrifice), so as to earn others a way to hope. Everything about Jesus is done to bring worth to others.

This mission of Jesus still needs to be accomplished today. It is our mission too. This means we must be of Jesus' style (behavior /manner of life). To bring worth to others is our calling. The worldly spirit we live in will not make this easy at all. The worldly spirit is about self-aggrandizement, self-love, and my own greatness. 'Save yourself' is all the world preaches. In this kind of world or mentality: intrigue, betrayal, denial, rejection, mockery, competition, rivalry and constant ridiculing of others, as not good enough thrives. 'Others' matter only when I want something or when they meet my demand.

There is hope for this world, even as imposing and domineering as it looks. Holy week leads to Easter. The way to that hope is living like Jesus. Bringing worth to others. Serve others.

Are you ready to embrace this mission? What makes you hesitate? How does your faith (Christianity) manifest itself in your life?

A Blessed Holy week!

Fr. Anthony

**Most Reverend George E. Rueger, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Worcester, deceased at 89
Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Christopher House in Worcester**

"The thing I guess I want to say more than anything else: **no matter where you go and whatever you do, you do it with joy and happiness, because you are reflecting, to the best of your ability, the Lord Jesus, the first priest. He sought to bring people closer to God, and so, in everything he did and said, he was being a priest.**" *(On Occasion of his 60th anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood, Catholic Free Press)*

Bishop Rueger was a kind and gentle priest and bishop who dedicated every moment of his life to the people. His humility was grounded in a complete commitment to his vocation. As a good steward of all the gifts God gave him, he lived simply and shared all he had with those in need.

May his Soul Rest in Eternal Peace.

