

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We almost had a mini-crisis on our hands this weekend, but I'm pretty sure it has been averted. We were told earlier in the week that the distribution of Palms for the Archdiocese of New York ran into an unexpected problem and special arrangements had to be made to get the palms to the parishes by Friday. (I am writing this before mid-week so I trust the palms actually arrived.)

On the one hand, it would seem that it would not be Palm Sunday without palms. This may sound like lunacy to some but palms are not absolutely necessary for Palm Sunday. The important aspect is that we begin Holy Week. Thus, it is wonderful symbolism to have palms but we could listen to the reading of the Passion and have Mass without palms. (On the other hand, we could not have Mass without bread and wine and a priest.)

This all may sound silly but stranger things have happened. It would likewise be very odd to have Ash Wednesday without ashes, but if there were no palms...

In any case, with or without Palms today, we do begin the Week we call Holy. Today we commemorate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On that day, the crowds would have made Jesus a King if they could. Oddly enough, it was probably the same crowds who were crying out, "Crucify him" some days later.

The important thing for us to remember is that God's plan for salvation unfolded in a dramatic way that Week. From the triumph to the Passion and Death to the Resurrection, we recall that solemn week, which is why we call this Holy Week. The Son of God revealed God's love in the most powerful way and the world has never been the same. We now know that death is not the end. Jesus promises eternal life. Let us truly make this week Holy by living our faith in Jesus, who died for us.

Blessed Holy Week!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.