

Lenten Reflections for EOHSJ

Palm Sunday 2019

Reflection by Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS



Gospel Reading: Luke 22:14–23:56 The Passion of Our Lord

How fickle were the crowds! Within a few days from “Blessed be the King who comes in the Name of the Lord” to “Crucify him!” And thus begins the Passion of the Lord. It’s good to be passionate – at the appropriate time and place – but I suspect that Jesus, even knowing that He was about the will of the Father, was reluctant to go through it: “Father, if it be thy will, take this cup from me” (Luke 22:42) “but thy will be done, not mine”.

As Knights and Ladies, this must be our constant prayer – that God’s will be done, here and now, in our world. And how much does God’s will need to be done! So let’s start small, let’s start with ourselves. As Knights and Ladies we remember our commitment to the Order, we freely acceded to these commitments – to pray for the Holy Land, and especially the Christians there; to support the work of the Order in the Holy Land, and to visit the Holy Land to experience for ourselves the lives, and struggles, of the peoples there. Aren’t these also our Lenten practices? To pray more intently, to give of what we have more intentionally, and to fast more seriously (I equate – for this reflection only – fasting with travelling. Never have I travelled to the Holy Land and lost weight! Their hospitality is just too good.)

If you have a Monday Rosary and Fast group near you, attend. Praying the Rosary with fellow Knights and Ladies for the intentions of peace in the Holy Land and for various intentions of the members of your group is a very powerful experience, and making a moderate fast that day in order to enjoy more the company and conviviality of each other that evening is a blessing we can share all month. Our Church calls on us to share the good things we have, knowing that all good things are from God and are ordered to God, and so we choose to tithe (maybe more than 10%?) Some to our parishes – a part of the local Church that is our arch/diocese – some to our favourite local charities, and some to benefit the world. Our gifts to the Order in general, and to individual good works of the Order in particular, certainly benefit people we might never meet in our daily lives (until we travel to the Holy Land perhaps).

As we walk the path of the Palms in our parishes this Sunday we remember the steep hill Jesus rode down from the Mount of Olives, past my favourite church in Jerusalem – Dominus Flevit – to the Garden of Gethsemane, hear the adulation of the crowds, rejoice that the King is entering his City, and be grateful that our salvation is at hand.

Blessings.

Rev. Stephen Porter, KCHS, was invested in the Order in 2003 and has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Fr. Steve is a priest of the Diocese of San Bernardino, and serves at Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Community in Beaumont, California.