

When you leave here today

Think about last Holy Week

Objectively, this is the holiest week of the year

Beginning today

With Christ's glorious entrance into Jerusalem

The events of the week, the last week of Christ's life on earth

Culminating in his passion, death and resurrection

But what about subjectively or personally?

Was it a HOLY WEEK for you and your family?

Or was it just another week?

Things to get done as we prepare for Easter

This can happen to all of us

Just as easily to priests and deacons

If we do not live this week intentionally

It will be Holy Week

But it will not be a HOLY WEEK

To live this intentionally it will require sacrifice and self-giving

When we encounter Christ in His Paschal Mystery

All of it

His passion, death and resurrection

We are opened to the reality of God's love for each one of us

A personal love we encounter in the sacraments

Baptism, confession, confirmation

The Eucharist, marriage, Holy Orders, anointing

Through these we encounter Christ

We walk with him during Holy Week

From His glorious entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday

The Last Supper celebrated on Holy Thursday

His passion and death on Calvary on Good Friday

Waiting at the tomb on Holy Saturday

To that first glimpse of a new light at the Easter Vigil

And the empty tomb on Easter morning

So how do we make this a HOLY WEEK?

First, we follow the invitation of the Lord in our Gospel today

At the moment of betrayal Peter attacks with a sword

'Put your sword back in its sheath'

Put away your anger, your aggression, antagonism

Resentment, hostility

Our passions, egoism and self-sufficiency

We are called to live by faith and trust

Each week we profess our faith

**Msgr Luigi Giussani tells us that this profession is the opposite of
betrayal**

To profess is to affirm publicly

While to betray is to deny before the world

This profession calls for brutal honesty

An honesty we express in the reading of the passion

When we call out '*crucify him*'

That hurts, doesn't it?

It hurts because it calls us to see the truth

It was not only the Roman soldiers that put Christ on the cross

It is my sins that put him there

It is my sins that keep him there

And speaking this line out loud

Reminds me of my weakness

But it also reminds me of His love

A love that overcomes all

Professing our faith calls us to take responsibility

And to the realization that His cross saves us

Even from ourselves

Next Jesus calls us to watch and pray

Don't let this week be just another week

Be vigilant, watch and pray

Take advantage of the opportunities our parish and diocese offer

The Chrism Mass in La Crosse if you are able

The Mass of the Last Supper on Thursday evening

The Passion and / or Tenebrae on Good Friday

Spend time with him on Holy Saturday

The churches will be open

Although this is the one day of the entire year

The tabernacles will be empty

But He is never totally absent

If you have not experienced the Easter Vigil

Come experience this holy night

When we celebrate the return of the light of the world

And Easter morning

Being at the empty tomb

Searching with the holy women

Encountering the risen Lord

The invitation is there for each of us

To walk with Christ

Imitating his humility and patience

Singing hosanna today

Celebrating the Passover and Last Supper

In the darkness of Good Friday

In the emptiness and silence of Holy Saturday

To the glorious triumph of the resurrection

This will truly be a HOLY WEEK