

## A HOLY WEEK

Dearest Sisters and Brothers in Christ, beloved parishioners and friends of ASA,

Holy Week is upon week, this unique journey of the entire Church in which we, as friends and disciples of Christ, seek to participate in the mysteries of His passion, death and resurrection, a journey to rediscover how we are loved by Jesus. We will, by our prayer and many liturgical gestures, draw close to Him who **emptied himself...and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross** (Philippians 2:7-8).

We journey from Palm-Passion Sunday, when, like palm branches, we lay our hearts across the path to welcome Jesus, our King and Messiah, who comes humbly, through Maundy Thursday, when He bestows the gift of Himself in the Eucharist and shows us how love translates into service of one another, through Good Friday, when He effectively gives Himself completely, unto Easter, when that same love raises His body from the grave, and Life has its definitive victory over death. Resurrection. Alleluia!

This week is holy because of this overflowing love. Truly to know this, of course, we need faith. It is not immediately obvious! It is not obvious because the events that we celebrate, from the outside, do not always seem very loving and because, depending on where we are personally, our celebrations can sometimes seem not to resonate much. Let us have recourse to the gift of faith, whereby we know that, more than simple events, these are mysteries of love.

This divine love makes of us sisters and brothers in Christ, called to welcome and to serve one another generously, to shun anything divisive, to trust that the road ahead for us is a hopeful one. That we increasingly discover this is my Easter

prayer for us. I invite you to a Holy Week, to participate as much as possible, to set aside time for our Lord, to be together in His love.

Yours in our Crucified and Risen Lord,

Dominique+  
*Rector*