

## **Palm Sunday 2017**

**“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”**

*Ever since compassion and forgiveness heard your name,  
she has been running through the streets looking for you*

Today is Palm Sunday, the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We see that Jesus didn't buy into the cheering crowds. He chose to be humiliated, shamed and brutalized. Why? we ask.

### **Jesus' Palm Sunday**

Oblate Fr. Ronald Rolheizer offers this commentary on why Jesus said he had to suffer to enter into his glory: *“Why is it, as the gospels say, ‘necessary to first suffer in this manner so as to enter into glory?’ Because, paradoxically, a certain depth of soul can only be attained through a certain depth of humiliation. In the crucifixion, Jesus was humiliated, shamed, brutalized. This pain stretched his heart to great depth. But that new space this created did not fill in with bitterness and anger, it filled in instead with a depth of empathy and forgiveness that we have yet to fully understand.”* Palm Sunday is not a story of Jesus failing.

### **Our Palm Sundays**

The same is true for us - Palm Sunday is not a story of our failings. When we allow our hearts to be stretched by pain, a new space is filled, not with bitterness and anger, but with a depth of empathy and forgiveness that we have yet to fully understand. It is at that great depth and empathy occur. It is in this great emptying that our hearts are filled with peace, hope and joy.

This is not a new concept for us, nor is it an unusual experience. When we don't allow our hearts to be stretched by disappointment, hurt and fear, we will be filled with bitterness and anger. Whenever our hearts are filled with bitterness and fear, our hearts have remained closed.

When we see ourselves living in a Christ-like way: in our politics - in our economic practices - in our attitudes towards those of other races and nationalities and religions, we will find ourselves walking along side of Jesus holding onto his hand on our Palm Sundays. Whenever we find ourselves living in an unlike-Christ way, we will find ourselves being left behind in the cheering crowd.

*Ever since compassion and forgiveness heard your name,  
she has been running through the streets looking for you*

A Blessed Palm Sunday!