

HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY – OLPH (2012)

(Passion according to Mark 14:1 to 15:47)

It seems the **secret is out**: Hosanna to the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest! Who is He who comes in the name of the Lord? How can these ‘Hosannas’ turn into ‘Crucify him’ in just a few days? So **who is the one who enters Jerusalem** in triumph today?

A man with leprosy comes before Jesus and is healed. Jesus tells him "See that you say nothing to anyone about this."

A deaf man comes to the Lord. Jesus says "Ephphathat, Be Opened" and the man hears. Then Jesus tells him to say nothing to anyone.

A blind man has his sight returned, and to him Jesus says: "Keep this quiet--don't even enter the villages."

On Mount Tabor, His glory is revealed, but Jesus instructs Peter, James and John to remain silent.

Jesus dies on the Cross, a gentile, a pagan, **a Roman centurion** now makes Him known, not only to those beneath the cross on Calvary, but to the whole world: "**Truly this man is God's Son.**"

To comprehend who Jesus is, we have to stand under the Cross. To recognize God's unconditional love for us, we have to understand the extent of His suffering for us.

To affirm that we are His followers, His disciples, we have **to join Him on the Cross** by accepting the cross the Father has entrusted to us.

Love gives joy, but this joy may also result in pain. Love means giving, but this giving can result in suffering as we say no to our own desires for the sake of the one whom we love. Love gives life. The Lord loves us so much that He even gives us His life.

As we begin this Holy Week, we pray that we might have the **courage to follow Christ** embracing our own cross. May we make real the cross of Christ in the world by giving ourselves to others in love.