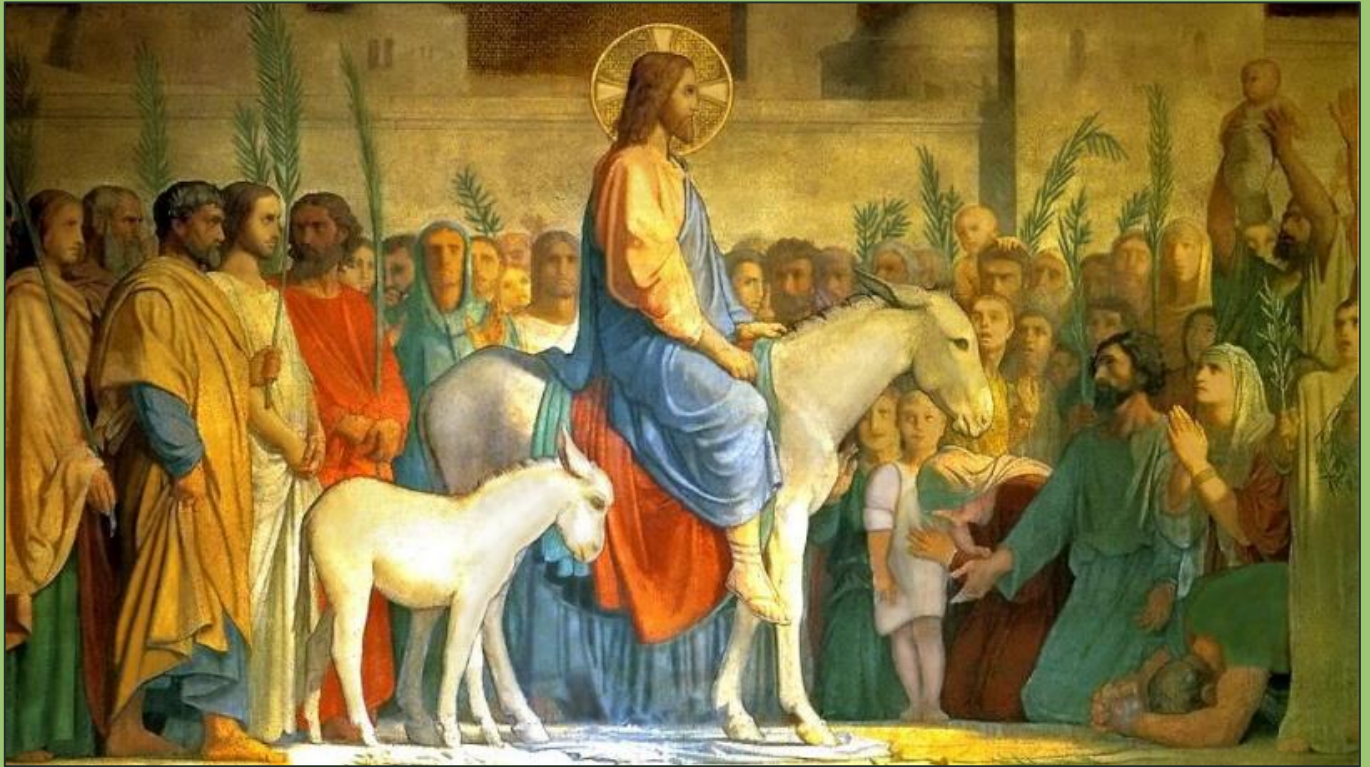




Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

“Welcome” brings to mind images of Jesus as mother, a friend, or a lover who is open and accepting. Someone who is embracing of all reality and ready to give his or her all for the life of the other, including the life of Earth.



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, by Jean Hippolyte Flandrin

Luke 19: 28-40, Luke 22, 14 – 23, 56

Jesus is welcomed by a crowd as he enters Jerusalem. In Luke 19:28-40, we read about Jesus being welcomed, “As he rode along the people were spreading their cloaks on the road” and, they proclaimed, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord”. However, as we read later in the Gospel, this welcome into Jerusalem by the crowd is superficial. It has no depth. It is not enduring, nor does it demonstrate an understanding of who Jesus is and the mission he announces.

Jesus shows us the meaning of welcoming. At the Last Supper, he welcomes his loved ones not only to the table but also into his heart, as he expresses his love and desire to share his very life and mission with them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you.” Luke 22:15

Palm Sunday brings to mind my probation name and devise. In her closing conference to the probanists in 2003, Superior General, Clare Pratt gave us our name “the Open and Welcoming Heart of Jesus” and the motto “through his wounds you are healed.” The Eucharistic Prayer chosen for the profession Mass began with the words: “Blessed are you, God of infinite compassion, whose heart embraces our aching world, whose love extends throughout the ages...” Clare continued the conference by reminding us that, “When we speak of the Heart of Jesus we are referring to the core of His being, the “place” of his deepest life, where He experiences beauty and ugliness, joy and pain. It is that place to which He invites us, calls us home.

That Heart is a heart that is fully human. He knows our humanity – all of it -- “from the inside”, from experience, and He loves it.” We are called to discover Jesus’ heart and to reveal God’s love in the heart of the world. Our mission as Sacred Heart Family is one of being welcomed by Love and welcoming others with that same all-embracing love.

Pope Francis’s encyclical, Fratelli Tutti, is concerned with the welcoming nature of human relationships. His specific concern is how individuals and communities welcome and live together with those whom we do not know, those who are not like us, whose experiences and cultures we do not share, whose geographical locations are far removed from ours, and those who are too easily ignored in our societal and global systems.

Our world situation today offers each one of us ways to be the open and welcoming heart of Jesus, especially to those who are not like us. We do not need to look far to see the abuse of power within our local realities and in the global community. Unbearable situations are being lived by many: conflict, wars, climate disasters, the pandemic, mental and physical illness..., and the list goes on.

Are we practiced at welcoming the love of God in our own lives? How will that help us to be welcoming to others? Who is asking for our welcome? Will our prayer and other concrete actions welcome others with the same deep, ongoing openness of Jesus? Are we open to staying awake with Jesus in the garden all night? Can we welcome and accompany him all the way to the cross and resurrection?

Closing Song: [Taizé, Jesus, Remember Me](#)

Photos by Erika Tornya, RSCJ,
Budapest Keleti Railway in Hungary:
Welcoming Ukrainian people fleeing war.



Let us pray to welcome Jesus’s love in our own lives, and to be like him by making a home in our heart for those needing to be welcomed.

Easter of Today - Echoes from People in Exodus



Within the JPIC team, it seemed important to live Holy Week in special communion with people in migration... [Click here to read more Echoes from People in Exodus.](#)

"My parents and I left our homes for the second time in seven years... And now again I have the feeling as in 2014, that I betrayed him, abandoned him and did not protect him."

-Kateryna, Lugansk (Ukraine)

Sheila Smith rscj
RSCJ UN-NGO Office



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