

building hope

Family of Four Parishes Lent 2019

Palm Sunday Reflection

Humility. So many of the holy men and women throughout the history of Christianity speak of the importance of humility in the spiritual life.

The humble person realizes their dependence on God for all things. The humble person knows that all that they have received is pure gift, even their own talents, and so they freely spend themselves on others around them. I wish I could say that this humble person that I am describing is myself, but if I am honest, I know that so often this is not the case. Why? Because one of the ways in which we grow in humility is *humiliation*, and humiliation is something that all of us so often seek to avoid at all costs.

Humility. Our second reading today from Paul's letter to the Philippians so beautiful speaks to all that is happening here on Palm Sunday: "...He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Christ's Passion in Jerusalem was filled with *humiliation* and He could avoided it, but chose rather to embrace it. For the sins of us all, He fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting."

Saint Mother Teresa speaks of the Gospel of the "Five Fingers": You. Did. It. For. Me. All of the pains and humiliations that Jesus suffered during Holy Week, He did for each one of us. He embraced these humiliations knowing our past, our present, and our future, and knowing how we will at some point disappoint Him again. But knowing all of this, Jesus would do it all over again for each of us tomorrow.

Humility. My challenge for us this week is two-fold. First, is there a place in our lives where we have experienced humiliation? Can we start to see that humiliation as part of God's plan and allow Him to bring new life from that? Second, what is holding us back from simply receiving God's love? Often times we are good at loving others, but not very good at loving ourselves. Jesus embraced these humiliations *for each of us*. A blessed Holy Week to you and may we all get just a little bit better at accepting these humiliations like Jesus did, so that we may grow just a little bit in humility.

-Fr. John Baumgardner, Associate Pastor



Milwaukee
Habitat
for Humanity®

Midtown 100

One Neighborhood. One Hundred Homes. One Goal: Serve The Most Families In Our History.

Milwaukee looks very different since we built our first home in 1984. Today, hardworking families are finding it increasingly difficult to afford a place to call home. Property values have fallen dramatically, particularly in areas of lower income families. At the same time, the price to rent is higher than ever. **Nearly 60% of Milwaukee renters are living in unaffordable housing.**

Midtown 100 combats our city's affordable housing crisis by **building, rehabbing and repairing 100 homes in the Midtown neighborhood in just three years.** Through groundbreaking partnerships with community-focused organizations, we will dramatically increase homeownership opportunities while helping current residents stay in their homes. With your help, more families than ever before will be able to build a foundation for a better life.



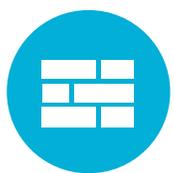
65 New Homes

The highest concentration of affordable single-family homes in Milwaukee since WWII



20 Critical Repairs

Help existing residents stay in their homes by providing affordable repairs



15 Home Rehabs

Transform blighted properties and prior foreclosures into safe, affordable homes

100
Homes In
Three Years



Neighborhood Revitalization | 2018-2020

With your support, Milwaukee Habitat will serve more families per year than ever before through new construction, rehabs and critical repairs.

Your investment also builds homeowner networks, improves health and safety, and supports beautification projects throughout Midtown.

Replicate the 48% decrease in crime on the blocks where we built in the Washington Park neighborhood.

Transform blocks of empty lots in Midtown into the highest concentration of affordable single-family homes built in Milwaukee since WWII.