

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD “B” MARCH 31/APRIL 1, 2012

Throughout this season of Lent each of us has been confronted by the large cross located in the narthex. As I mentioned on Ash Wednesday it is formed from the two trees which decorated the narthex and the altar area this past Christmas, thus linking the birth of Jesus to his passion, death and resurrection into which liturgically we again enter this week.

Touching the cross recently some of the sap from them remained on my hands. I was struck by the realization that these trees, are still pouring forth their “blood”, still giving life.

The central events of our salvation we celebrate this week are more than a yearly historical commemoration, some type of Passion Play. Because they are the acts of God in Jesus which have passed into memory through enactment in worship, like the trees that form the cross in the narthex still bleeding their sap, these events still emit God’s saving, sanctifying, forgiving, and reconciling grace to us today. More, this grace is not limited to the yearly recalling of these events during these holy days. Like the sap emanating from the tree/cross, the life of Jesus given for us on the cross, is made present and flows physically to us under the sacramental elements of bread and wine, his Body and his Blood, in every celebration of the Mass. Every reception of Holy Communion is an experience of touching and being touched by the life of God.

“We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your Holy Cross you have redeemed the world.”