

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
March 28, 1958

The Pageantry Of The Palms

As soon as the Church obtained her freedom in the 4th century, the faithful in Jerusalem re-enacted the solemn entry of Christ into their city on the Sunday before Easter. They held a procession, carried palm branches, and sang "Hosanna!" The practice spread to Rome, later, where a Mass was offered outside the walls of the city, and there the palms were blessed. Then a solemn procession moved into the city to the basilica of the Lateran, or to St. Peter's where the pope sang a second Mass.

Everywhere in Mediaeval times, following the Roman custom, a procession composed of the laity and the clergy moved from a chapel or shrine outside the town, where the palms were blessed, to the cathedral or main church. Our Lord was represented by the Blessed Sacrament, or by a cross adorned with flowers, carried by the celebrant of the Mass.

This Sunday at Notre Dame, we shall do much the same thing, blessing the palms at the Grotto -- weather permitting -- and then moving in solemn procession to Sacred Heart Church. Hence, when the bells ring at 8:45, gather at the Grotto. As the procession approaches the church, it will be greeted by a choir singing the famous song, "Gloria laus et honor tibi sit, etc." This takes place at the 9 o'clock Mass only.

At the Mass which follows, the story of the Passion, according to St. Matthew, will be chanted. This is really a throwback to Mediaeval times and the Miracle Plays once performed in church. These ancient liturgical devotions prescribe that the characters represent Our Lord, the narrator of the story, St. Peter, and the Jewish mob. A missal will help you follow the drama as it unfolds before you.

Have You Made Your Easter Duty?

It is well to have the habit of offering a specific Communion in fulfillment of this Precept of the Church. Better do it before you go home. Furthermore, good example, like bad example, is contagious. Your own good example will encourage others to go to Communion. And the timid who find it hard to go to the Sacraments feel better about it if they have strong support.

Another thing: you are your brother's keeper. And if you know of anyone who has not received the Sacraments thus far during Lent, get busy this weekend. Remember what St. James said: "My brethren, if one of you strays from the truth, and a man succeeds in bringing you back, let him be sure of this: to bring back erring feet into the right path means saving a soul from death, means throwing a veil over a multitude of sins." (St. James, 5:20). You see, you'll be helping yourself, too.

Feast Of The Seven Dolors

Today is the Feast of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin. Some manifestation of your devotion to her is eminently in order on this memorable day. If you missed Mass this morning, get over to the 5:10 this afternoon. If that's impossible, then come to the Novena service at 6:45.

Tonight at 8: The Bengal Bout Finals. This show is good entertainment. It is also a wonderful way to help the priests, and Brothers and Sisters from Notre Dame and St. Mary's to carry the Faith, and medicines, and the Charity of Christ to the jungles of Bengal. You participate in that apostolate when you support the Bengal Bouts.

PRAYERS REQUESTED - Deceased: mother of Wm. P. '32. and Frank J. '34. Cass. Ill: Walt Butke of Dillon (operation).