

Dear Friends,

Several people have asked about the name and address of our State Representative. We are in District 69 which covers the northern tier of DeKalb County (Genoa, Kingston and Kirkland) as well as Boone County. Our representative is **Ron Wait** and his address is **411 S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008**. I have read the Reproductive Health and Access Act, and I have seen the list of representatives who put it together.

Representative Wait's name is not on that list. However, since it is his job to represent us in the state capitol, we have the responsibility of telling him how we want him to vote when the HB2354 comes to House in Springfield.

I was struck when I read the Reproductive Health and Access Act that it begins with a statement saying this is what the people of Illinois want. My hunch is that the writers of this act are wrong. We the people of Illinois have a much higher regard for the sanctity of human life and for the medical profession than this act indicates.

Last week, the focus of my letter was to encourage all of our parishioners to attend the Triduum, or the Three Days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. I especially highlighted the wonderful Mass of the Lord's Supper which will be celebrated on Thursday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m.

This week, I would like to highlight the Good Friday Service which will be celebrated on Friday, March 10, at 3:00 p.m. This profound liturgy is not a Mass. It is, rather, a Liturgy of the Word and Communion service. In this service we honor the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus in order to prepare ourselves to more fully celebrate his resurrection. During this liturgy we will hear the Passion according to St. John, we will sing special petitions for the Church and for the world and we will venerate the cross. In all of this you will notice that there will be absolutely no representation of the presence of Christ in the church. The statue of the resurrected Christ will be taken down. We will not use the processional cross. The tabernacle will be empty. The church will look and feel more like a place called Golgatha, which is where Jesus was crucified.

Why should we enter into such a mysterious liturgy? We do so because the resurrection doesn't make much sense if we do not first taste death. How can we truly know the joy of Easter if we ignore the mystery of Jesus' passion and death? If we do not enter into the mystery of the Triduum as fully as we can Easter remains only another nice holiday.

How should we enter into the Good Friday service? We should be hungry. Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. Good Friday is a day in which we choose to die to ourselves, our desires for food, our need to party for the weekend and seek shallow entertainment. Good Friday is a day for us to be aware of our hunger for the life of Christ. We ought to be as empty of food as the church is of any signs of the presence of the Body of Christ. On Good Friday, we are the living sign of the presence of Christ. He has already risen to new life in us, but we need moments like this to honor what Christ did to bring us salvation.

If you do not have to work on Good Friday, or go to school, please consider coming to the Good Friday service. I look forward to celebrating the mystery of our salvation with you.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel