

Dear Friends,

I have never felt so proud to be your pastor as I was this past Triduum and Easter weekend. From Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday we truly celebrated the passion, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. We celebrated the gift of our salvation with great emotion, real dignity and with a faith-filled integrity like I have not seen before. It was all so beautiful.

One of the great experiences of being a pastor is to hear the positive comments people make about how the Triduum and Easter liturgies touched their lives. The liturgies themselves are powerful and have tremendous meaning. So, I hope folks are grateful to the Church for creating such beautiful liturgies for us. One other point that must be made is that a lot of people worked extraordinarily hard to make these liturgies go so well.

- **It started out with the Liturgy Committee way back in January and February.** We studied a document called SOURCEBOOK that is filled with lots of wonderful ideas about how to celebrate Lent, the Triduum and Easter with dignity. SOURCEBOOK explains what the different parts of these celebrations mean. After reading the chapters on Lent and the Triduum we discussed how we would implement these ideas with creativity and a style that would fit our needs.
- **We asked people to help.** We spoke to people in the parish, who are great at sewing, designing and decorating, to help us create an atmosphere of real beauty. It was amazing. We simply asked, and people said, "Sure I can do that." And what we asked for got done. Mary Johnson was in charge of decorating the Church and, once again, it looks stunning. Dina Fowler did some sewing for us and it was perfect. Many other people stepped up to help decorate the Church, create an altar of repose for Holy Thursday, and get everything ready for Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.
- **We practiced everything this year.** I was so proud of all the various ministers involved in the Palm Sunday, Triduum and Easter Masses. Holy Week was a

busy one for a lot of people because we got together to practice every detail of those Masses. Lectors came and practiced their readings, especially the Passion Narratives for Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Altar Servers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Greeters and musicians came to these practices and worked really hard so that when it came time to celebrate these powerful liturgies, everything went beautifully. Bob Engles was our Master of Ceremonies for the Triduum Liturgies and did a fantastic job.

- **We had great music.** I was so proud of Laura Schaefer and all those who practiced long and hard to lead us in song during all of the Liturgies.
- **Hispanic presence.** Both the Saturday evening Palm Sunday Mass and the Easter Vigil were bilingual liturgies, and they were beautiful. The Hispanic community is such a vital part of who we are at St. Catherine of Genoa. The blending of our cultures, our languages and our spirituality creates a beauty like nothing we have seen before.

So, dozens of people invested a lot of time and energy into the Holy Week, Triduum and Easter liturgies. I am so grateful to everyone who worked so hard to help us celebrate these sacred liturgies so well. I am truly humbled by the generosity and faith of this community. You all inspire me to be a better person and a better priest.

Thank you. I love you.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel