

HOMILY PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

I DID NOT HIDE MY FACE FROM INSULT AND SPITTING

Hosanna to the Son of David!

My dear brothers and sisters... We have begun this holy time... And we do so by walking with Jesus as He enters Jerusalem...

We have acclaimed Him... we have raised our palms... **And we have felt the joy of knowing that salvation has come...**

But we know... that this same journey... doesn't end there...

The same Jesus, who today is received with joy... will be rejected... will be abandoned... **will be crucified...**

And what is most striking... Is, that He knows it... Jesus enters Jerusalem... knowing what is coming... knowing what is in the human heart... **knowing that the cries of today... will become the insults of tomorrow...**

And even so... He doesn't stop... He doesn't defend Himself... He doesn't turn back... He doesn't change His path... **He did not hide His face away... He didn't resist... He remained firm...**

He did this... because His love... **doesn't depend on what He receives... but on what He has chosen to give...**

My dear friends... today we aren't simply remembering a moment in history... **we're contemplating the most pure and unconditional love we've ever received...**

A love... that even when it hurts... even when it costs... even when it's rejected... **remains...**

That is why... Today it's not enough just to listen... Today we're called... to enter... **to enter into this mystery...** to allow ourselves to be touched... **not to remain as spectators...**

And to recognize *in the Cross...* the mystery of a love that doesn't change... a love that remains... a love that goes to the very end...

If, I didn't come down from this Cross... it was for love of you! It was for love of you...

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And here! Something deep is revealed... it isn't Jesus who changes... it's the human heart... **that can be fragile... unstable...**

I don't know about you, my dear friends... But when I listen to the Passion... it leads me to ask... **Who am I... to receive so much love?**

How beautiful it would be... if for a moment we closed our eyes... and tried to feel... what Jesus may have felt in His heart... When He heard **how the cheers...** were turning into insults...

And in that silence of our heart... to ask the Lord for the grace... not to remain spectators... that this holy time may not pass like just another time...

To ask Him for the grace to walk with Him... and to remain with Him... not to walk away...

Because this love that we're contemplating today... is not a distant story... **it's a love... that is poured out for you... for me...**

How beautiful it would be... when in a few moments, the chalice is lifted up... you remember that it's not just another sign... **it's His Blood... Poured out and given...** for love of you...

My dear brothers and sisters... let us not look at these holy days from a distance... Let us enter... let us walk with Him... let us remain with Him... And let that love... **touch our hearts... And transform our lives.**

Fr. Moices Rafael C.