We come to share our story, we come to break the bread, we come to know our risen from the dead / We come as your people, we come as your cheer, linked with each other, love finds a home / We are called to heal the broken, to be the hope for the poor, we are called to feed the hungry at our door / Break of Life and cup of promise, in this meal we are all one. In our dying and our rising, may your kingdom come.

— Song of the Body of Christ by David Haas

His Story Is Our Story

Telling stories is an essential part of being human. People everywhere, throughout history, have told and still tell stories. We tell stories about family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. We even tell stories about the fish that got away.

When it comes to the story of the passion and death of Jesus Christ, we not only hear the story from the perspective of the four gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, but many of us have seen interpretations of the story told by movie directors.

It would make a long list to jot down the many characters that in some way are included in the stories of the Passion and Death of Jesus – from when he was welcomed into Jerusalem on the back of a colt to when he died on Calvary. If, somehow, we could ask all the people who in some way came across Jesus during this time, “What happened?” they would give us different answers. Later, if we were to ask the same question again, the same people would have changed their answer after some reflection. This brings us to asking ourselves the same question, “What happened during the days of what we now call Holy Week?”

I believe that what happened during the week is but a part of a longer story that involves all humanity, including ourselves as characters. It is important to remember that the story of the Passion and Death of Jesus is not something that we tell once a year on Palm Sunday and then again on Good Friday. It is the story that we tell by living our own lives each day. The Passion and its meaning are not a past event only for our memories. The saving event is alive in us. It shows itself in the suffering of the sick and the tears of those who mourn. It shows itself in the lives of worry on our foreheads and the despair in our hearts.

But the story of the Passion and Death of Jesus is the beginning, not the end, of our stories with all the unfinished struggles of life that lie ahead of us. For us, the events of Palm Sunday and Good Friday are redemptive and transforming. Because of Christ’s Passion and Death – and Resurrection on Easter Sunday – we who share in those saving mysteries of the story are given new life each day for all times. The story of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is our story. We tell it not through written words and movies, but through the lives we live.

May God bless us all and give us peace.

Frs. Bob Kelly, OP

UPDATE ON COVID-19

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