

Lenten Reflection

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017



By Sister Barbara McMullen, CDP

Just recently I heard an old song on the radio, *The Rose*, sung by Bette Midler. A line in it caught my attention: “It’s the one who won’t be taken, who never learns to give. It’s the man afraid of dying who never learns to live.”

Jesus didn’t seem afraid to die—he entered Jerusalem to the shouts of “Hosanna to the King” knowing, perhaps in some part of himself, that those words would soon turn to “Crucify him!” Jerusalem was his destiny and Jesus knew that his opponents were not happy with him, yet he knew he must go. He was surrendering to the will of his Father and showing us the way of discipleship. There are no spectator disciples, no part-time Christmas-Easter disciples. We can’t dabble in discipleship. It is a commitment, a choice, a surrender wholeheartedly to follow the Beloved.

Surrendering to that moment, and all the moments to come, was Jesus’ choice. He chose to lose himself in love for the sake of new life. The Christian mystery of it all, of course, is for us to do the same. We know that in dying to self we find new life, new freedom and growth. But wait...do we really believe this is true? Are we willing to enter the path of conversion, to let go of what holds us back from wholehearted loving? Will we follow Jesus in the way of discipleship or simply watch from afar?

God is always there—supplying the needed strength for conversion, if we are inclined to listen. If so, we stand in good company. We join those at the foot of the cross, the women at the tomb, the apostles in the upper room, the disciples on the way to Emmaus—all experiencing new life beyond imagination. May we be that kind of disciple!

