

On Palm Sunday, we were all on fire with enthusiasm for Jesus as we all cried out: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

The question then was and still is: will we sustain that enthusiasm, sustain ourselves on the bright path of creative altruism – standing with Jesus all the way to the cross --- **OR** – will we pick Peter and the other disciples as our role models – and stray into the darkness of destructive selfishness and self-preservation – and cry out with the others: crucify him! What will you give me to hand him over to you? I am not one of his disciples. . .IF, with the help of God's grace, and the strength of the Eucharist we even receive on this day when we do not celebrate Mass – that's how important receiving the Body of Christ is to us --- IF we choose to continue to walk the same path of light as Jesus – remaining faithful to the one who is obedient unto death, even death on a cross --- then this must be our prayer:

O Jesus, poor and rejected, unknown and despise – have mercy on me, and let me not be ashamed to follow after you.

O Jesus, hated, slandered, and persecuted – have mercy on me, and make me content to be as my master.

O Jesus, blasphemed, accused, and wrongfully condemned – have mercy on me, and teach me to endure the mistreatment of others.

O Jesus, clothed with a habit of reproach and shame – have mercy on me, and let me not seek my own glory.

O Jesus, insulted, mocked, and spit upon – have mercy on me, and let me not falter or fail in the fiery trials of life.

O Jesus, crowned with thorns and hailed in derision;

O Jesus burdened with our sins and the curses of the people;

O Jesus affronted, outraged, buffeted, overwhelmed with injuries, griefs, and humiliations;

O Jesus hanging on the accursed tree, bowing the head, giving up the spirit – have mercy on me, and conform my whole mind, heart, and soul – to be your holy, humble, suffering servant. AMEN!