



April 4, 2020

A "DIFFERENT WAY" TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

Our parish doors are closed due to the dangers created by the COVID-19 Virus. However, as the people of God, loving members of the Roman Catholic Church, our hearts could be open for the incredible moment in time of commemorating Holy Week in a "different way."

Indeed, it will be a "different way" since none of us has ever experienced the unimaginable day-to-day existence resulting from the virulent, world-wide pandemic. Our participation in Holy Week must be unlike ever before!

What is the "different way?" What can I do to participate in it?

1. Join Fr. Henry and I, every evening via live stream, on the Facebook page of **The Academy of St. James of the Marches**, for all the masses and prayer services of Holy Week. The schedule of each mass and service can be found on the **St. James of the Marches** website.
2. Apart from the said masses and prayer services, bring Holy Week into your home in creative ways. Do you have a favorite image of the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and/or the Resurrection of the Lord? Place that image somewhere more prominent in your home. Be sure it can be seen by everyone.
3. Also, could there be some sacred music played during a brief time on one or more of the days of Holy Week? The selections online are too numerous to list here!
4. Perhaps, place on one of your exterior doors symbols of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and/or Easter Sunday. Be creative. Yet, be sure the symbol bespeaks of the sacredness of the holy day. It would be a powerful public witness of your faith.
5. Finally, maybe designating a specific time each day of Holy Week for one or more of your family members to pray together for those most affected by the dangers created due to the COVID-19 Virus. Pray for the caregivers in hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers. Or, for the seriously ill with the virus. Add, prayer for families mourning the sudden loss of a loved one. Finally, seek the Lord by asking His divine assistance for those researching the answer to the end of the pandemic.

So, if we can do one or more of the aforementioned suggestions, we could be together without being in the same place. We'll be united, yet separated physically. This Holy Week, participate in a "different way."

God bless you and your family
Fr. Marc

