

Fr. John Sassani
Homily Given on April 5, 2009
Palm Sunday
Liturgical Year B

The Passion we just heard is at one level very familiar to us, but we can miss some elements that are singular to each Evangelist and may be helpful to us in following Christ.

In St. Mark's Passion, Jesus is charged as a revolutionary, crucified with two other revolutionaries – not thieves – thieves were not crucified. Jesus is a revolutionary. He is leading a revolution to change the world into the Kingdom of God. He wants to overthrow our hearts and our worship of false gods – myself or another or the status quo – everything contrary to the Gospel.

Obviously, Jesus has overthrown the woman who anointed Him. He was winning Joseph of Arimathea, who had been part of the council that condemned Him and is now the one who collects His body for burial. He left a question in the heart of Barabbas, the conventional revolutionary who gets amnesty when Christ gets crucifixion.

The Son of God dies on the cross -

- to touch our hearts
- to change our hearts
- to overthrow our hearts

At this Eucharist and every Eucharist, He reveals the nature of His life and love and provides us with the means to appropriate His life and love as our own.

I have a custom, familiar to many of you, of placing the palm that was blessed today on a crucifix. It's a sign that He is winning my heart – a sign that I want to share His mind and heart – a sign that He is overthrowing my heart – which is the prelude to Easter.