

The Trials (Continued)

Last week, we described the trial of Jesus before Caiphas. After the latter had illegally found Him guilty in trials that were themselves illegal, Jesus was subjected for the rest of the night to the insults of Caiphas' servants. Until the coming of daylight released Him from their brutalities, He was made the object of their mocking, their blows, their spitting, their blasphemies.

When morning came at last, the Sanhedrin met to give an appearance of legality to the verdict of the night-time trial. This done, they led Jesus before Pilate, the Roman governor. (Ordinarily, the Jews, in their hatred for Rome, would have as little as possible to do with Pilate but, since he alone had power to order the death sentence, they now insisted that he put Jesus on trial.)

Pilate demanded to know the charge: "What accusation do you bring against this man?" The Sanhedrin's answer is revealing. In the trials that they themselves had conducted, the charge on which Jesus had been condemned was that He claimed truthfully to be the Son of God. Now, before Pilate, it would be necessary to accuse Jesus of some political crime. Hence, "we have found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that He is Christ the King."

Jesus Who had gone about doing good, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, curing the deaf and dumb, bringing peace to troubled hearts — Was this perverting the nation! Jesus Who had answered the Pharisees with: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" . . . and Who had given Peter the money to pay the taxes required of them — Was this forbidding to give tribute to Caesar! Jesus Who had fled from the crowds when they sought by force to make Him an earthly king, and Who proclaimed: "My kingdom is not of this world" — How manifestly false were the charges! Little wonder that Pilate, after questioning Jesus, rendered his "not guilty" verdict: "I find no cause in this man."

Obviously, having been acquitted, Jesus should have been released immediately. But Pilate, instead of acting decisively and justly, wavered, turned to compromise and expediency and — like all of us who try compromise, expediency and toying with temptation, — finally lost.



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OUR PARISH BULLETIN

Third Week in Lent

March 1 - 7, 1964

Sometimes we get so accustomed to certain expressions that we use them without any real thought as to what they do mean. Such is the case with words like "friend" and "companion" and even "family" and "brother".

If we pause to consider such words, it might help both you and me to understand more profoundly that you and I are companions on a pilgrimage. There is a very close, very strong bond between us. You are my companion, I am yours, as we make our way through the desert of this life en route towards the Promised Land.

We have been baptized. By that fact, you and I are among God's Holy People. And yet, although we have been accepted among His Holy People, nevertheless we still continue to commit sin. At Baptism, we renounced the devil and sin, but we still listen to him and we fall again and again into his snares. You and I, companions, must help and encourage each other to shun temptations, to shun the circumstances that make it easy to sin. You and I, companions, must help and encourage each other to be not "against Jesus" but to be "with Jesus" in order to be truly one of God's Holy People: "to hear the word of God and keep it."

Yes, we are companions in this journey, but we are not like strangers on a common journey. We are companions, but more than companions.

We are, indeed, friends; we are friends, for friends are actively interested in each other's welfare, and actively helpful to promote it.

But even then, we are more than friends. We are members of the same family: God's family of children, re-dedicating our Baptism at every Mass ("Humble and contrite, we offer ourselves, Lord"), as we make our way Home together to our Father's loving arms.



Your devoted brother.

Immaculate Conception Parish

Chapel Point Rexton South Branch
Rev. Herbert Grattan, Pastor

3rd Sunday in Lent **March 1/64**

Catechism Classes are cancelled for today.

Devotions this afternoon at 2 p.m.

There will be a Card Party in the Parish Hall on Monday at 8 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate prizes may give them to the President of C.W.L.

Daily Mass Schedule:

Mon. to Friday: 4 p.m.
Tuesday & Friday evenings at 8.30
Saturday(one mass only) at 8.15

Friday of this week is the first Friday of the month of March. There will be two masses on Friday, one in the afternoon at 4 and one in the evening at 8.30. There will be Confessions on Friday evening beginning at 7.15. There will be confessions for the children on THURSDAY afternoon after the 4 o'clock mass. No confessions on Friday afternoon.

Saturday of this week is the first Saturday of the month of March; to be observed in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

On Friday of this week I will visit the sick of the Parish and bring Holy Communion. I will begin at 8 o'clock and will follow usual order.

High Masses for the Week.

Sunday Mrs Mary Thibeau - Claudia Thibeau
Monday Hugh Dysart - Dr and Mrs L.G. LeBlanc
Tuesday Rene Nowlan - Frances, Bonnie & Wayne
Wednesday Hubert LeBlanc - Mrs Dora Leger
Thursday - Ronald J Murphy - Family
Friday Frank McInerney (Anniv) - Family
Saturday Mrs John Maloney (Anniv) - Mona & Eddie

Server this week: James Thomson

Devotions and Catechism at South Branch on Thursday evening of this week at 7 p.m. (instead of Friday).

Some day unity among Christians will be a fact. When that day comes, Christians will look back and see the important part the Liturgy played in bringing God's children together. Read today's lead article in Our Sunday Visitor and you'll have an idea of just how important the Liturgy is in Christian life. Get your copy at the entrance of the Church this morning, and after reading it, pass it along to a friend.

According to the weather forecasters, the month of March may come in like a lion. But you can be sure as the Sunday's Gospel that the devil goes about every day like a lion seeking souls to share his spell of eternally hot weather.

God Bless You.