



Just a 'regular'

Bishop Malloy stops by DeKalb's Newman Center

By AMANDA HUDSON | News Editor

Bishop David Malloy called a few weeks ago to say that he would like to celebrate Palm Sunday Mass with Newman Center students in DeKalb, said Father Jeremy Trowbridge, parochial vicar at Christ the Teacher Parish.

Then the bishop asked what time Mass was. When he learned the regular time is 9 p.m., "there was a pause," Father Trowbridge said with a little grin. "Then he said, 'I'll be there.'"

"He said he wanted a regular Palm Sunday Mass, so that's what we're doing."

Before and after Mass, Bishop Malloy greeted young and old, families and individuals in the Newman Center foyer.

Discovering that one young woman was study-

ing French, he jumped right into that language, getting her to laugh as she responded to his light-hearted inquiries.

Young men often received a pat on the shoulder and a nudge to consider the idea of the priesthood. And he accommodated requests for photos, including selfies, with a grin.

Kathryn Pusateri, a senior at Northern Illinois University who is on the student ministry team at the Newman Center, said she was looking forward to Mass with the bishop since she heard about it a couple of weeks ago. "He's awesome (and) Newman's a great place to be."

Cassie Lexa, a sophomore at Kishwaukee Community College, had met Bishop Malloy at St. Therese summer vocations camp and other events. "I love the bishop," she said. "He's a great guy."

Her friend, NIU junior Kamil Bednarczyk, said before Mass, "I'm super excited. I've never met him. It'll be a great privilege."

Like others who milled around the bishop after Mass, Bednarczyk was all smiles as he shook the bishop's hand.

The always-beautiful Mass that begins Holy Week starts with prayers and a procession reminiscent of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Bishop Malloy reminded everyone that the words of the people who welcomed Jesus with palm branches remain part of



ABOVE: Bishop David Malloy chats with student and adult members of Christ the Teacher Parish after Palm Sunday Mass, April 13.

Students talk after selecting palms to raise during the opening readings of the Palm Sunday Mass.



VOCATION CORNER

Called to live!

Happy Easter to all! Easter Sunday is the most joyful day of the year because we rejoice at the fact that Christ has power even over death and that he promises to share this power with us!

For this reason we are called to rejoice because Christ proves that there is nothing that can separate us from his love (except our own sinful choices, but that is covered, too, through the power of his mercy available in confession). No matter what trials or struggles we may be experiencing, today Christ wants for us to trust and to believe that his saving power is stronger than our greatest concerns or trials.

Today we are called to rejoice! So, just like any other time that Christ calls us, we need to respond to his living voice by rejoicing in the fact that through Christ's resurrected life, we are called to live eternally as well.

But this of course requires that we live in a certain way, and that we continue to follow his voice so that we can follow where the example of his life would lead us. Of course, this leads to sanctity, but it leads each of us on particular paths as well.

The resurrection proves to us that we need to listen to his voice, because after he rose from the dead, he continued to teach, and he continues to teach and to call us individually today.

So, since Christ is alive, let us listen to his voice and rejoice to follow where he calls!

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations
Write to him at kromke@rockforddiocese.org.



(Photo provided)

Rosary High School freshmen Anna Stephens (left) and Erin Hawkins wrote essays that were selected in a contest on "The Importance of Religious Freedom" sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 4849 of Holy Angels Parish in Aurora. The winning essays move on to the next level of competition in the ultimately international contest. State winners will be announced in the spring and international winners in June. Read the winning essays at <http://rosaryhs.com/news>.

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Palm Sunday



Q I've been hearing about stewardship lately, and I've wondered about ways I can begin being a steward. I'm at a community college and still live with my parents, but I think this is a habit I'd like to start. Is it just about money or are there other ways I can be a good steward?

A What a good question to ask! I believe you are already on your way to being a good steward by the interest within your question.

What does being a good steward really mean? I think it first means that we realize that everything we have is a gift from God. First and foremost this refers to our bodies and souls but it also includes all our spiritual gifts, talents and material blessings.

So if we begin with this fundamental understanding that all we have and all we are comes from God, then we are in the right frame of mind.

From here we should be grateful. Grateful to God for everything!

From there, with a grateful heart, we look at all we have received from God and we will want to be generous in return.

So I believe that being a good steward requires that we start with the desire to return to God and others what we have received. This is the perfect definition of a "cheerful giver!"

Being a good steward of the gifts we have received from God means we look at our natural talents, our supernatural charisms (spiritual gifts given by God to serve others), and all our material possessions. We look at them and offer them to God and pray that He show us how He wants us to use them.

We use our natural gifts in many natural ways. This may include acts of service to others, giving of our time and energy for good works and the like.

Our charisms would be gifts God gives us to directly build up His Church. This may include teaching the faith, evangelizing, organizing ministries, etc. There are many spiritual gifts we may receive from God which draw us beyond our natural comfort zone. We should not be afraid to respond to these gifts with generosity.

And we are also called to be generous with our money and material blessings. Sometimes this is the most difficult area to be generous with. So let me offer a bit more on that.

As a college student you most likely do not have much money. That's ok. It's not about how much you give. Rather, it's about you seeing your material blessings and money first and foremost as God's.

Traditionally, based on Genesis 28, it has been recommended that we give 10 percent of our income directly to the service of the mission of Christ. But there are many other Scriptures that speak about giving generously (see: 2 Cor. 9:6-7, Luke 6:38, Acts 20:35).

I think the key is to always return to the idea of being as generous with God as He has been with us.

With that said, we all need material resources to care for ourselves and our families. But after that is taken care of I can think of nothing better to do than to be generous in supporting the mission of Christ. In the end, this sort of generosity is just as good for you as it is for others. So, as you say, start forming that habit now and you will not regret it in the future.

Love and share the same holy Catholic faith!

YO Father questions are answered by Msgr. Aaron Brodeski. Send your questions to youngobserver@rockforddiocese.org.

Bishop David Malloy (right) holds an elaborately braided palm for the Palm Sunday procession at Christ the Teacher Parish, the Northern Illinois University Newman Center.



(Observer photos by Amanda Hudson)

NIU students make up most of the choir at the Newman Center. Instrumental musicians also play for the 9 p.m. Mass, which is a regular offering when classes are in session.



the Mass today in the Sanctus (Holy, Holy).

Another commonality is that people of both modern and ancient times share the same desire to be with Jesus and others in joyful times, but not at passion times, he said.

Later, in his homily, the bishop asked those gathered to have "open mind and heart going through this Mass.

"As we read (the Passion), don't we get that feeling of our own sinfulness? ... That's natural ... (Jesus) died for your sins and for mine."



Kamil Bednarczyk and Cassie Lexa attended the bishop's Mass.



Kathryn Pusateri has looked forward to Palm Sunday Mass with the bishop since she heard he was coming to DeKalb's Newman Center.

The "chorus" parts read by the congregation remind us those words are what each of us, in effect, says when we sin, he explained. But then he pointed out that Jesus did not die in anger, but "in love and forgiveness ... (his) forgiveness is always there ... we must turn to it."

Regarding "Be Reconciled" day of confessions, held April 9, he spoke of the "explosion of grace" that happened for individuals, the diocese and parishes, saying, "That's what Christ died for ... with arms open, he is always there" for all who seek forgiveness.

Holy Week, he added, is "a week of mercy and a week of forgiveness ... we are now the crowd coming to Holy Week. (It is) the reason for our faith."

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