

Fr. Gerry Hurley
Palm Sunday

The essence of the Gospel is: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me," Jesus tells the disciples after the Resurrection in Acts 1:8.

Then, I read in my meditation from "Holy Island" last Wednesday the statement I first heard at a Youth Conference back in 1983. I never forgot it. It made such an impression on me.

"The Church, which is often described as a hospital, contains too many patients who fail to get well. The Church, often described as a school, contains too many pupils who fail to learn. Is this, then, the Church's witness to the world, sick and ignorant disciples who know not the Christ whom they claim as Lord? Should churches then close the hospital and school and go out of business? No, for "ye shall be witnesses unto me." The Christian Church has, fundamentally, only one thing to give this torn and harried world: Jesus Christ. It is from Him we get, and then share, such essential things of life we cannot manufacture or buy: a Christian sense of humor and perspective; Christian courage, intelligence, and faith; and hope in the eternal purposes of God. We are all ultimately dependent on God who made us, and we are responsible to Him for all we think, say, and do. We are indeed His witnesses."

Wow! What a dramatic reflection as we head into the Holiest Week of the year. Thursday -- when we celebrate His gift of the Eucharist, the biggest anniversary of the year for us Catholics. Friday -- the gift of Himself and His Passion for us!

Wow! Why not join us for these amazing events at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday?

"Ye shall be my witnesses!"