

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

March- April, 2009

By Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

“MEMORY”

So much of the present and the future depend on memory. The memories are not static. The present shapes them, not so much to discard them but to make them go on living. A memory of the beginnings of a romance is enhanced, indeed made more substantive by the memories of the marriage and the parenting which followed. The memories about one's child are given a richer, fuller context by the reality of the adult child.

March and April this year are filled with memories of the Lenten wilderness experience of Jesus, the hour of glory on Palm Sunday, the betrayal by a friend, the execution on Calvary, the Easter hopes of the community. These memories have made a difference in our lives from the time when we were children, hardly aware of betrayal or death, not yet needing the sturdy and persistent hope that adults sometimes need to survive.

Over the years we added to the early memories of our childhood and the age-long memories of the Church, the shaping influence of our present journey. Betrayal had the names and faces of former friends and death included the loss of loved ones and our own near encounters with it.

Now, when we go back to Christ to remember, we bring ourselves there or we take Christ here, so to speak. These memories give context and substance to our experience and assure us we are not alone. Our lives are part of God and fused with Christ as we learn to bear the present in its anguish and its joy. We take the wilderness and the glory; the defeats and the sudden hopes into a future where we and Christ and the community of believers and, indeed, all humanity converge in meaning, love and grace.

Anthony