



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

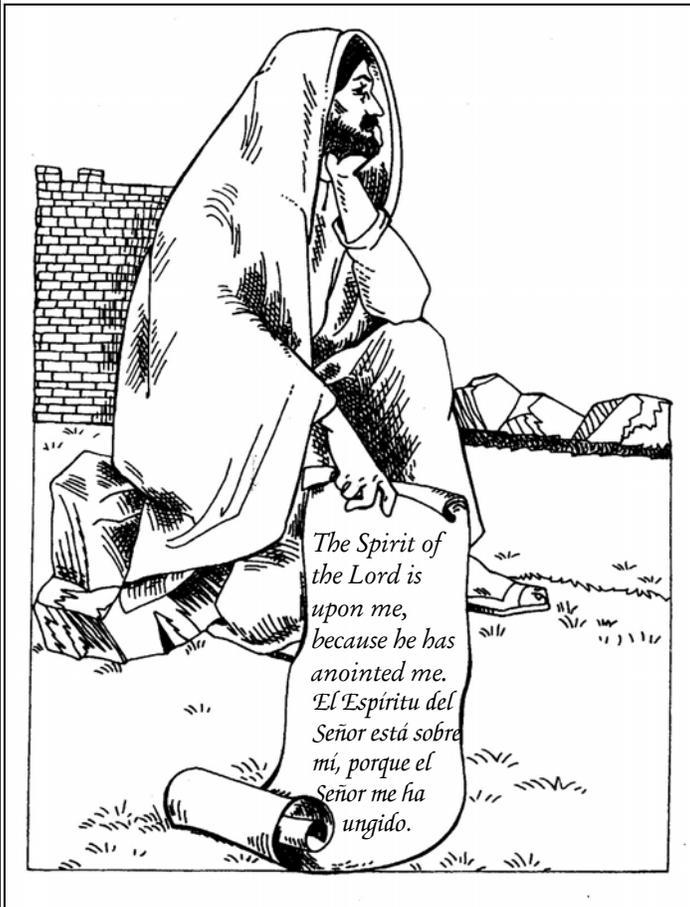
Parish Creates *Passport to the Holy Land 2010*

MOUNTIAN VIEW — Over 175 children stayed close to home; yet they journeyed to another time to retrace the footsteps of Jesus with their families at St. Athanasius Parish. On Palm Sunday morning, the classes in the Catechetical Ministry program reconstructed on the Parish Green a miniature Holy Land. There were bilingual displays for the areas of Nazareth, Bethlehem, Galilee, Jericho and Jerusalem.

Upon arrival each family member received a passport that included a pilgrim's map and prayer along with New Testament references.

After checking-in, each family shared a food item that Jesus' family may have eaten 2,000 years ago such as flat bread, olives, nuts and dried fruit. Different juices were also on hand including pomegranate, apple and grape.

Attentive to the directions of road signs, everyone visited the different sites to learn more about the life of Jesus. The displays included actual travel brochures brought back by Catechetical Director Victor Valdez from a previous pilgrimage to the Holy Land.



Besides sacramental liturgy and sacramentals, catechesis must take into account the forms of piety and popular devotions among the faithful, such as pilgrimages. CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 1438



The final days of Jesus were recounted by Catechist Francisco Godoy at the Jerusalem display with actual photos.



Just like in real life, palm trees lined the way for Jericho, known as "the city of palms".

THE HOLY LAND AT THE TIME OF JESUS

All the places we read about in the Bible are as real as the street in front of your house. Over the centuries since Jesus walked the earth, Catholic Christians have worked to preserve sacred sites of his life. Through an intergenerational event, the place we now call the Holy Land was made accessible for families to step back in time where Jesus was born, died and rose in glory.

✦ Nazareth Jesus' birth is good news. An angel tells Mary about God's plan (Luke 1:26-38).



Catechist Jose Luis Rodriguez encouraged his class to where white, the color of their display. Below the back of his shirt read in Spanish "Nazareth, the place where Jesus learned to read and write".



The Gospels are central to the catechetical message. They express the teaching which transmits the life of Jesus, his message and his saving actions.



The distance between each Biblical site was given in both miles and kilometers.



Instead of paying taxes as in Jesus' time, everyone stepped up to have their passport stamped beneath the map.



✦ Jerusalem We can praise God for His Son, Jesus. The people praise Jesus as He enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:28-40).



People of all ages traveled to the different locales of Jesus.

+Galilee Jesus wants us to follow him. He calls the fishermen Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be his disciples (Mark 1:14-20). Jesus brings peace. Jesus calms a storm (Mark 4:35-41).



Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). Sounds easy enough below along with handmade palm trees..



Scripture pictures by the same artist made experiencing the life of Jesus visually interactive. The back side of the picture stands included scripture points and questions at each display. Catechist Jose Amador recounts the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus below in Jericho.



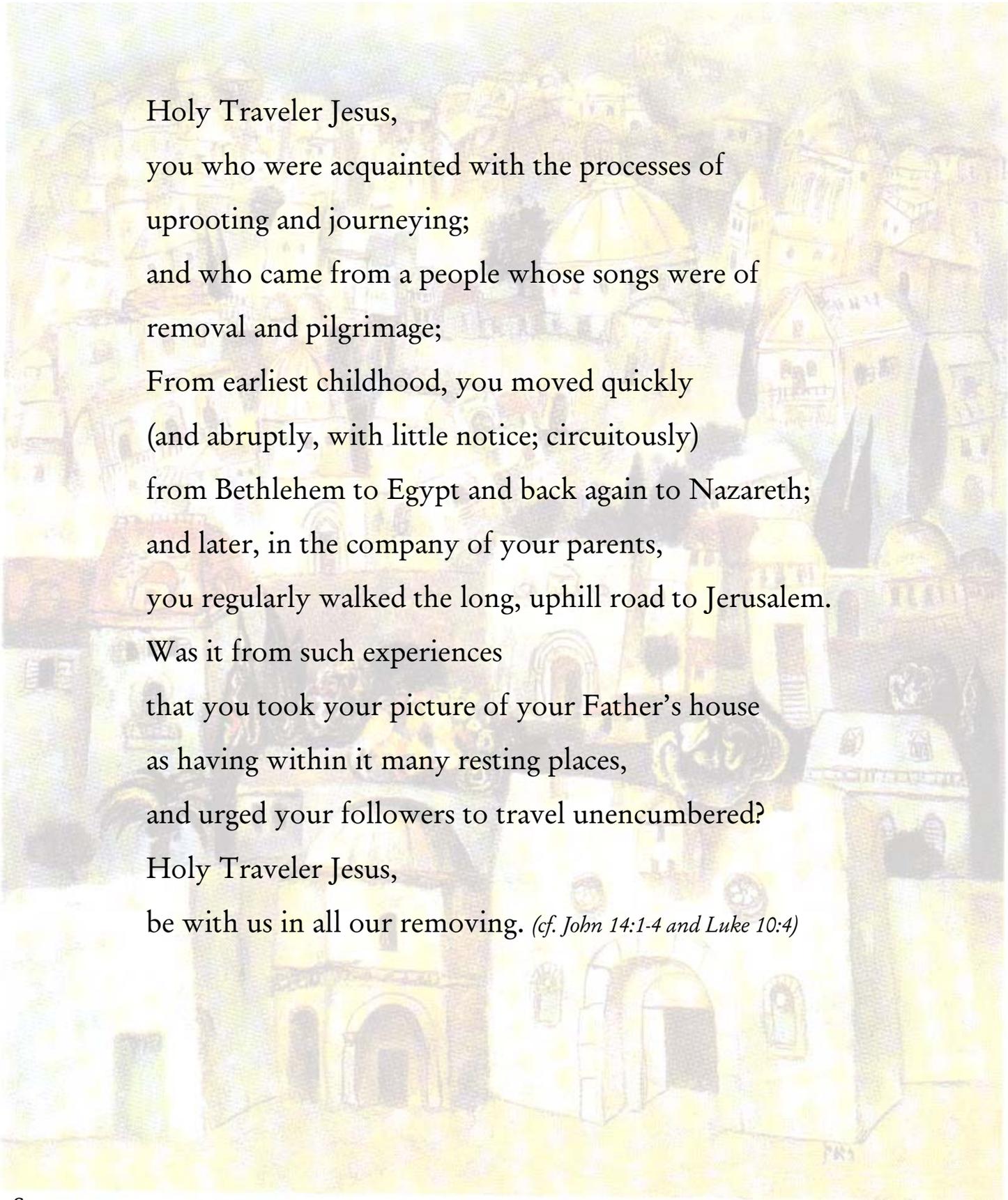
+Jericho Jesus will help us change our lives if we ask Him to help us. Jesus forgives Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).

To describe Tradition and Scripture as sources for catechesis means that catechesis must imbibe and permeate itself with biblical and evangelical thought, spirit and attitudes by constant contact with them. GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS, 127



Bethlehem's story can be told anytime of the year.

+Bethlehem Jesus wants us to seek him. The wise men find Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12).



Holy Traveler Jesus,
you who were acquainted with the processes of
uprooting and journeying;
and who came from a people whose songs were of
removal and pilgrimage;
From earliest childhood, you moved quickly
(and abruptly, with little notice; circuitously)
from Bethlehem to Egypt and back again to Nazareth;
and later, in the company of your parents,
you regularly walked the long, uphill road to Jerusalem.
Was it from such experiences
that you took your picture of your Father's house
as having within it many resting places,
and urged your followers to travel unencumbered?
Holy Traveler Jesus,
be with us in all our removing. (cf. *John 14:1-4 and Luke 10:4*)

Sources

Carden, John, *A Procession of Prayers* (Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 1998).
Scripture Pictures (Cook Communications Ministries, 2003).