

Homily – Palm Sunday 2018, B
by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

The formal title of this liturgy is
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.

The Gospel reading was introduced as
“The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

That word “passion” is usually thought of as referring to the sufferings and death
recounted in today’s Gospel reading.

The word “passion” was originally derived from the Latin verb PASSIO,
and meaning “To suffer.”

Over the centuries, it has taken on richer meanings:
To do something with “passion,” to be passionate,
is to do it enthusiastically, from the heart, with deep commitment.

Of course we also talk about lover’s being passionate:
deeply in love, sexually intimate.

All of that gets tied together in this passion story about Jesus.

Jesus is passionate.

What he does, he does from the deepest recesses of his heart;
the incarnation is the epitome of commitment.

Isaiah: “I gave my back to those who beat me,
my face to buffets and spitting.”

A profound demonstration of the depth of God’s love for us all ...

Philippians: “He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.

Young people yesterday, in the “March for Our Lives,” Promenade Park, Toledo
demonstrated passion – enthusiastic, deep commitment, willing to suffer.

Passio also has a sense of being passive.

Jesus in this Passion story is not the actor, but is acted upon.

In doing this he becomes the savior – through an act of profound submission.
He becomes a grace/gift through his submission.

For those of us getting on in years, much to reflect on here.