

A Coffee with Alessio



Lent Part VI- “The people I have formed for myself shall sing my praise.”

Well, we have passed the halfway point of Lent, and we are back in “purple mode” this week, after the rose vestments and rejoicing tone of last Sunday’s liturgy.

The heading for this week’s column comes from the prophet Isaiah, and is the last line from this weekend’s First Reading. It really doesn’t *seem* to have a lot to do with coffee, I know. (More about that later.)

The readings that we will hear this weekend for the Fifth Sunday of Lent- Year C have a slightly musical theme to them. There is the citation mentioned above, and also in the Responsorial Psalm we have the line “on their lips there were songs.” Last Friday, I had the privilege of playing the organ for a World Day of Prayer service held at one of our inner city parishes. It was truly a celebration of faith. The school children from the local parish school attended, and the school choir led the singing. They were there together with parishioners and members from other Christian denominations. The theme of this year’s World Day of Prayer was “The spread of the Gospel in Cuba.” Music is very much a part of Cuban culture. During the service I thought about the *I Love Lucy* show and how Desi Arnaz and his band that often featured in the show.

The service was very uplifting and the children did a great job of leading the singing, reading and bearing flags during the procession. It truly was a celebration, where the people the Lord has made for Himself sang his praises and “on their lips there were songs.”

At the conclusion of the service, everyone gathered in the parish hall for a morning tea, which leads me into the point I made at the beginning of this column: What does that line from the prophet Isaiah have to do with coffee? Well, a lot, actually! I've always said worship needs to be followed by fellowship. We take God from the church, into what we do "outside the church". So this weekend after Mass, go for a coffee with someone, and let that be a time to celebrate the gift of your friendship with each other, and thank God for it, so that you may truly sing his praises, for not only did He make us for Himself, but the friendships we have are a gift from Him, for which we must be truly grateful.

Enjoy your coffee, whilst singing the Lord's praises!

Friday March 11, 2016