



Like the Samaritan leper from Luke 17, I want to return to the Easter Triduum to give thanks, to prostrate myself before the Easter experience in gratitude as before Jesus himself. In this year of first things for me, I continue to cross new thresholds and move forward to new experiences, but I must pause after the overwhelming experience of sharing Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum with you.

Sometimes the Lord's "new wine" brings a "sober intoxication of the Holy Spirit." His sweet presence is so strong that I feel a "Holy Spirit hangover" for a while afterward. The peace of the Lord lingers on. That's the way I felt after Easter weekend. Often I felt "overcome with paschal joy" during the celebrations and remained touched by paschal peace and joy.

Psalm 27:4 says *"There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to abide in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to savor the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his temple."* There is sweetness in the Word of God and in the sound of music. There is vitality in a community bonded by Lenten fidelity and Easter joy. There is beauty in shadows and sacred fire and candlelight, in the souls of children, in the cross of our sweet Christ, in his sacred banquet, and in heartfelt alleluias.

So let me return for this moment, to prostrate myself before the empty cross and the empty tomb, to believe and to give thanks, and from there to walk forward with the Risen Lord.

*Fr. Jim*