

## From the Clergy Assistant

***First Station: Jesus accused before Pilate*** “Jesus, you stand all alone before Pontius Pilate. You are accused of things you did not do. No one speaks up for you; no one defends you. They all seem to forget that you have spent your entire life teaching and caring for others.”

*“As a kid, sometimes I feel alone. Sometimes I feel like no one understands me, or takes my side. Sometimes I feel isolated and upset when I am corrected, or when someone says something about me.”*

*“God, many times people don’t seem to understand me. Sometimes I feel that the criticism of others is unfair. Help me to accept the mistakes of others as you accept each of us when we make mistakes. Help us to be big enough to ask for forgiveness for the mistakes we make and to forgive as Jesus did.”*

*From “A Children’s Service for Good Friday”*

Soon after my ministry began here at St. Elizabeth’s last August, I began to hear from different parishioners and staff members about how meaningful the Good Friday Children’s Service with the Stations of the Cross had been last April. Last year was the first time (in recent memory) that St. Elizabeth’s had done this particular service, and it seemed that those who helped in creating it were quite gratified to see how meaningful the service proved to be and how well attended. This made quite an impression on me: Good Friday was *months* and *seasons* away, and people were still talking about this service and looking forward to doing it again. And we shall. 4:30 pm on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

As I read through a bulletin for the service, I was struck by how it strikes a chord with **all** ages, not only children; so my only suggestion would be to possibly change the title from a “Children’s” service to something broader.... An “Intergenerational” service, perhaps?

Last year costumes were rented for Pontius Pilate and Jesus; this winter we have had the gifts of the time, commitment, and creativity of Lois Chapman and Joan Hickey in creating St. Elizabeth’s own costumes.

It is so valuable to make that difficult and lonely journey with Jesus through the valley of the shadow of death on Good Friday in order to “come out the other side” and more fully appreciate and enter into the awe of the Resurrection and New Life with Christ on Easter Sunday.

We hope you can join us at the Children’s—“Intergenerational”—Good Friday service at 4:30 pm. Yes, it has been created especially for the participation of children, but *all* are welcome to share in this journey.

The Rev. Joan F. Conley