Blessed is He, Who comes in the name of the Lord!

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

What makes you happy? Can you think of something that always makes you smile? A friend? A favorite thing you do? A joke? Did you know God wants us to be joyful, to be happy?

Today is Palm Sunday, a day full of joy and happiness. When we hear the Gospel reading, we hear how the people were so joyful when they saw Jesus coming into Jerusalem. They shouted and waved branches. They were so happy that their King, Jesus, was coming to the royal city!

In today’s epistle reading, we hear words that tell us, “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, Rejoice...The Lord is near.” God wants us to rejoice today...and every day! When we think about how God is with us, we have a reason to rejoice, to be full of happiness. When we think about what God has done for us, we have a reason to rejoice, to be full of happiness.

Palm Sunday is a beautiful day, and we can celebrate how God is the real King! But can you try to keep those special words in your heart all the time (not just today)? “Rejoice in the Lord always!” Be full of joy because God is with us!
What’s in the icon?

Here is another icon of Saint Callinicus. In his icons, he is usually wearing his beautiful vestments. That’s because he died as a bishop.

However, he spent most of his life wearing a plain black monk’s cassock!

A LIFE OF FAITH
SAINT CALLINICUS OF CERNICA

You’ve heard the verse in the Bible that tells us, “If you have faith as a grain of a mustard seed,” you can move a mountain. If we just have a little bit of faith, God will do a lot!

Saint Callinicus had a lot of faith in God, and with God’s power, this saint was able to do a lot of good for the Church and the people! Saint Callinicus was a faithful little boy in Romania about 300 years ago. He grew up to be a faithful monk and later on, a faithful and loving bishop.

Saint Callinicus lived at the beautiful monastery of Cernica, in Romania for 43 years. He was responsible for lots of other monasteries too. He helped restore many of the churches and monasteries around him.

Once, the Ottomans had surrounded his monastery, and they were causing a lot of trouble for the monks. The monks had run out of food. Saint Callinicus encouraged the monks to pray with him, and soon a cart full of food came through the gates, pulled by two bulls!

Another time, the Turkish governor put even more pressure on the monastery and the monks. With Callinicus’s strong prayers, the governor gave up on harming them.

All through his life, Saint Callinicus faced things that could have gone very wrong! But his faith in God was so strong that God made things come out right. The saint’s faith helped other people be strong too. What an example for us!

We remember Saint Callinicus on Tuesday, April 11th (OC: April 24th).

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