



## DON'T WASH YOUR HANDS CLEAN: TURN YOUR ASHES INTO ACTIONS



The Reverend Monsignor John J. Strynkowski from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, New York, will be *coming home* to Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport, New York during the Holy Season of Lent to take us to Calvary (and beyond) with Christ. His meditations will take place during the 12:10 P.M. Mass and during the 7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross. The subject matter of these meditations will be: "Companions of Christ".

With the help of "companions", Christ eventually arrived on Calvary. Before we meet the Blessed Mother (Station IV), Saint Simon of Cyrene (Station V), Saint Veronica (Station VI), the Weeping Women of Jerusalem (Station VIII), or those "Standing by the Cross" (Station XII), we must – with Christ – stand before Pontius Pilate.

Pontius Pilate had the opportunity to set Christ free, but he allowed his desire for power and a prominent earthly position (two of the three temptations that Satan tempted Christ with during His forty days of prayer and fasting in the desert), to get in the way of God's desire for his soul. He recognized the need for justice, but failed to satisfy it. He chose death rather than Life.



Pilate's failure is not unlike that of many elected officials who could set the unborn child free from the womb, but instead condemn that child to death by supporting abortion. Pilate's failure is not like that of many who choose not to support the Church in her mission to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned: corporal works of mercy that are accomplished with every contribution we place in the Sunday Offertory basket at Mass. (Many of those who choose to absent themselves from Sunday Mass like Pontius Pilate, "wash their hands clean" of any responsibility for our needy family members.) How is Pilate's failure not unlike that of yours and mine when, faced with an opportunity to advance justice, we wash our hands clean and leave the decision for others?

After Pilate's failure, Christ will encounter others on the way to Calvary. Like His encounter with Pontius Pilate, Christ's encounters with these others (the Blessed Mother, Saint Simon of Cyrene, Saint Veronica, the Weeping Women of Jerusalem, and those "standing by the Cross") have lessons to teach us; lessons about Christ, about those He encountered, and about us! Please, don't wash your hands clean of those lessons. Accompany Monsignor Strynkowski on the Fridays of Lent (12:10 P.M. Mass and/or 7:30 P.M. Stations of the Cross) and learn how you – like these "others" – can turn your ashes into action!