

## YOU WERE ASKING . . . by Msgr. P. M. Stilla

**Q.** You have announced each week since Easter that “blessed palms and blessed Easter water are available in the Parish Office”. I know the importance of placing blessed palms in our homes as symbols of peace and harmony but what can our family do with blessed “Easter” water?

**A.** Water, which is the obvious symbol of life and cleanliness is not only blessed at Easter but also, throughout the year for the celebration of Baptism and for our use in various prayers and rituals.

The water that is blessed during the solemn Easter Vigil Mass has a unique significance. It reminds God’s People of the actual day of the Lord’s Resurrection and how that day made it possible for all to be baptized and to be freed from the corruption of sin and evil forever! For this reason, it is used on Easter Sunday each year to bless all who gather for

Mass on that day and who renew their Baptismal vows or promises. Of course, because of this year’s closure of churches, a renewal of vows at a public Easter Mass and the blessing of the Baptized at this celebration were not possible. However we still have this year’s Easter water blessed



in every church by the bishops and priests who celebrated Easter Masses in private.

How can our family use this water?

In this year’s circumstances I suggest you obtain the Easter water and then gather members of your family in your home to renew your Baptismal Promises as a family of Christians. Then, a designated family member can use the blessed water to sprinkle everyone. You can use this following ceremony:

**Leader:** Through the Easter Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. During this Easter Season let us renew the promises of our Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

**Leader:** Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of God’s children ?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you renounce the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you renounce Satan, the author of sin and the prince of darkness?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

**All:** I do.

**Leader:** And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, keep us by His grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

**All:** Amen.

**Leader:** May Faith, peace and good health reign in our family and among all our friends and loved ones, now and throughout this year and may we be blessed today with this Easter water, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.