

**Tony Lamberti's Homily
March 18, 2018
The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Pilate's Dilemma:

**May my lips and my heart bless the Lord,
In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

In the Year of 325AD, the Council of Nicaea, agreed upon the articles of the Faith, or better known as the Nicene Credo. It was one of the largest undertakings of the holy mass to be completed. In it, we hear the phrase, "He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate". Within this statement embedded a list of crimes that would put to death an innocent man on the cross. For Christ was indicted on a list of trump charge which are as follows: Seduction, blasphemy, inciting people to not riot, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, forbidding people to pay their taxes, and claiming to be king. The list goes on and on. These crimes sentenced Jesus to death by crucifixion.

Jesus began preaching during the 15 year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. According to the scribes of the time, he was crucified between year 30AD and 36AD. If anyone needed a good lawyer, Jesus Christ did. The Roman Prefix, Pontius Pilate, was the Governor of Judea from 26AD to 37AD. After the trial, Pilate was later replaced by Pro-Council Marcellius in the year 36AD or 37AD. Either way, the facts remained the same. Christ never had a fair, proper, legal trial according to Roman Law. The only loophole in the Roman Judeo Law as Christ was not a Roman citizen. He fell under the Jewish magistrate, King Herod.

I have always wondered what his verdict would have been if he fell under the Roman guidelines. He refused council before he was questioned. The Gospel tells us a different story. Pilate questioned him and found no just cause that would warrant his death. He was sent back to Herod's Court to face charges, but Herod sent him back to Pilate to face charges. Pilate's

judgment stood. His wife had a vision, “do not have anything to do with this innocent man”.

Pilate, knowing, that he had to uphold the order in the land and maintain peace, took his seat of judgment. That morning, asking the mob, “I find no just cause of his crime”, the crowds cried out, “Away with him, crucify him”. Pilate, knowing that his final decision would change the course of history, washed his hands of the whole situation. The verdict stood. Jesus would be crucified for crimes that he did not commit. In order for the scriptures to be fulfilled, it had to be.

Today the edited decision stood without question. It was the most talked about verdict in all of the empire. Today, we still hear those haunting words, “Behold, the man”.

Each Sunday, when we recite the Credo, let us pause and think of those words. “He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.” Maybe we can look at this unjust man who had to die in order for us to be redeemed.

Behold the Man.