

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is faith in Loving Action

My brothers and sisters, the book of Leviticus has made one of the appealing calls to us that is a



call to Holiness. That is precisely what the season of Lent calls us to do is to return to the Lord and put Him first. That is, having a right relationship with God and our neighbor. This is the only way to be holy. **Abraham responded to God's call with absolute availability. Put to the test, he did not hesitate or refuse to sacrifice what was most precious and dear to his heart as his promised child.** He concretely demonstrated that with love everything is possible. He loves God with all his heart. His love for God is greater than anything. **Do you love God with all your heart and souls?** Or do you have other gods in your life?

The season of lent puts before us the story of the Transfiguration which shows Christ full of glory because he responds to the love of the Father. If He is ready to die to demonstrate **His absolute fidelity to the Father, it is because He loves the Father with all His strength.** The only way to respond to God's love and tenderness is to love Him "with all our heart, with all our strength and with all our mind".

Jesus did not keep His relationship with His Father for Himself, rather He wanted it to be inclusive by bringing the three disciples with Him to show to them the profundity of His loving relationship with His Father. We disciple of Christ are called to be people who listen to His voice and who take His words seriously if we want to be part of His loving divine family. To listen to Jesus, you must be close to Him, you must follow Him, you must accept His teaching. **The Lord calls us aside, to go up the mountain.** Let us understand clearly, it is not a question of mountaineering but of finding a place of silence and meditation to better perceive the voice of the Lord. This is what we do in prayer, and this is what the season of lent is all about.

But we can't stay there. The encounter with God in prayer pushes us to "come down" from the mountain. We are invited to go down and join our brothers and sisters in helping and assisting them in what they are experiencing. We cannot isolate or cluster ourselves. There we will find all those who are overwhelmed by the weight of burden, illness, injustice, ignorance, material, and spiritual poverty.

Each one of us is sent to be a witness and messenger of hope that brings and restores life of others with the grace of God. Our Christian life is to give to others what we received from Jesus and to welcome Jesus and give Him to others. He alone can transfigure us. Let us pray for each other in this time of lent we can be a small light and love for everyone we meet on our journey.

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