

# WORD FROM THE PASTOR

## LENT CALL TO CONVERSION



This Sunday's three Readings invite us not to forget the wonders of God. The Book of Joshua tells us of a God who freed His people from slavery in Egypt. At the end of a long journey through the desert, we arrive at the land God had promised to His people. This story from the Book of Joshua reveals to us a God who is Liberator and Savior. **He wants us to be free and happy.**

Throughout our earthly pilgrimage, we are on the path toward God's World. The slavery we must abandon is that which is caused by selfishness and the love of money; it is also that of indifference and violence in all its forms. We all must fight against the traces of the old world. But the question is not to transform ourselves but to allow ourselves to be transformed by the Lord. **This battle we must wage is not ours, but His. Lent is here to invite us to return to Him and give Him first place in our lives.**

**This Lent is given to us as a time of Reconciliation.** This is the message conveyed to us by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthians. The entire Gospel speaks to us of this mercy of Jesus. He was sent to seek and save those who were lost. He does not hesitate to welcome sinners and the excluded. With Him, there is no hopeless situation. **He calls us all to return to Him because He asks only to fill us with His Love.**

The Gospel of Saint Luke tells us the parable of the two sons and their father. We know this parable well because we have heard it often. It is the story of a boy who claims his share of the inheritance and leaves. After spending all his wealth in a life of debauchery, he ends up in poverty. He then decides to return to his father. This return is not due to a true conversion but to the hunger that gnaws at him. **We are all loved by God; it is up to us to say this again and again to those who do not know it.**

In this parable, we can also glimpse a third son: Jesus Himself. **He came to seek and save those who were lost. It is He, Jesus, who prepared the banquet for "the GREAT FEAST OF FORGIVENESS." He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life";** it is through Him that we must pass to reach the Father. **But nothing will be possible if we do not seek to become "merciful like the Father."** With Him, we can set out again. He restores to us the dignity of His children; He invites us to return to the path that leads us to the Father. In this time of Lent, which still separates us from Easter, we are invited to intensify this path of conversion. Let us allow ourselves to be touched by this loving gaze of the Father for all of us.

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