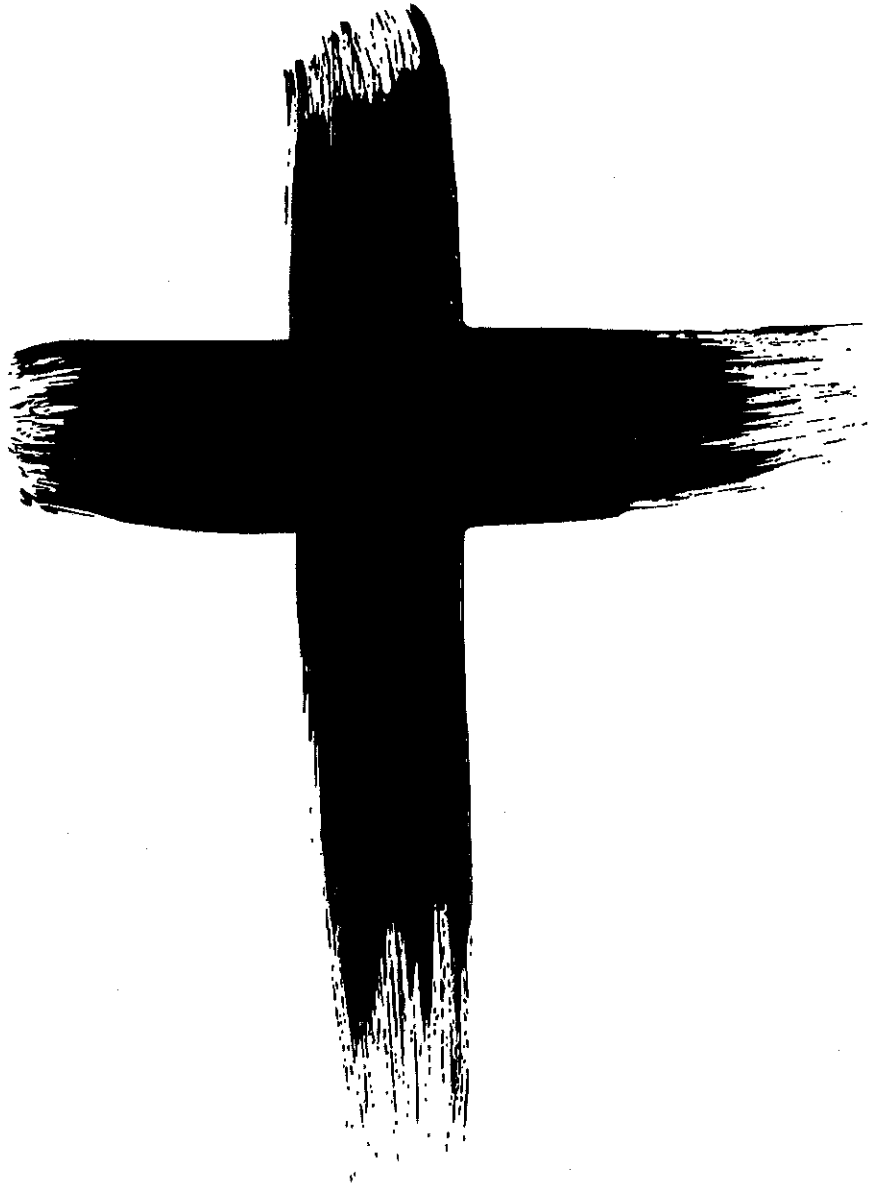


Reflecting on the Gospels of Lent



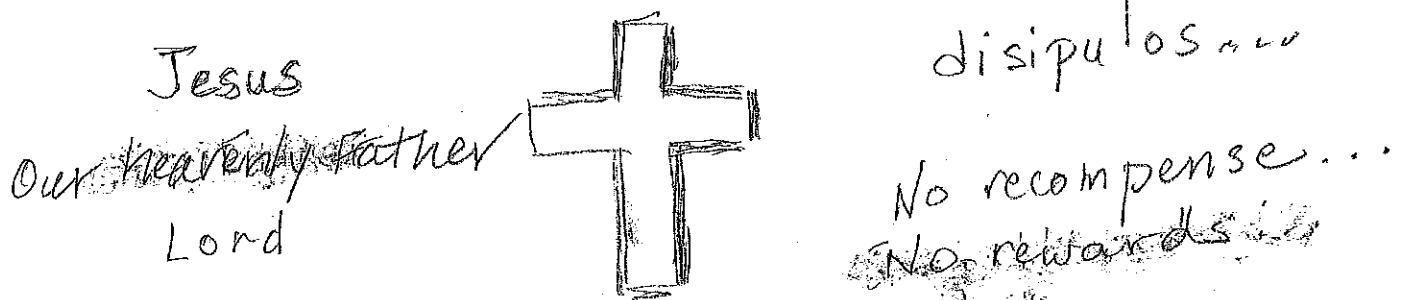
St. Charles Borromeo

2024

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Mt 6:1 -- Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father.



Take
Care...
To

Be humble...

Don't do something for the reward,
do it because it is right...

Word reflections by
6th Grade Faith Formation Class

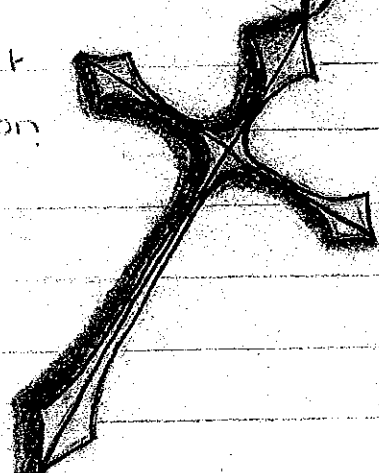
THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
February 15, 2024

Lk 9:23 -- "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

I wear a cross around my neck. I always have an I suspect I always will. Because you see the cross reminds me that I am free. The crossbar runs from side to side and holds his arms spread open wide. The call goes out from east to west "Love all those which I loved best". When I see the beam upended I see the one who hung suspended. The rugged post points to the sky. He came from there to here to die. But the cross is tarnished and many have seen that the one who wears it is not always clean. So many times the one who wore it looked nothing like one who bore it. Here is a mystery contained a symbol of freedom hangs from my chain. Reminding me that though I'm saved for me to be free I must first be a slave. I see the cross and hear its cry this cross of life calls me to die. So maybe the reason life can feel a mess is I only wear it around my neck. And I won't find peace until I get the knack of bearing my cross instead on my back.

Amber King

Virginia Richardson

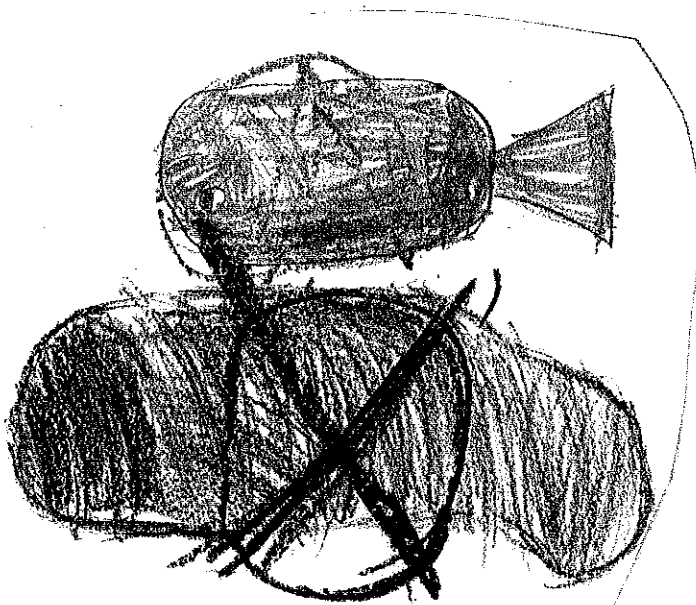


FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

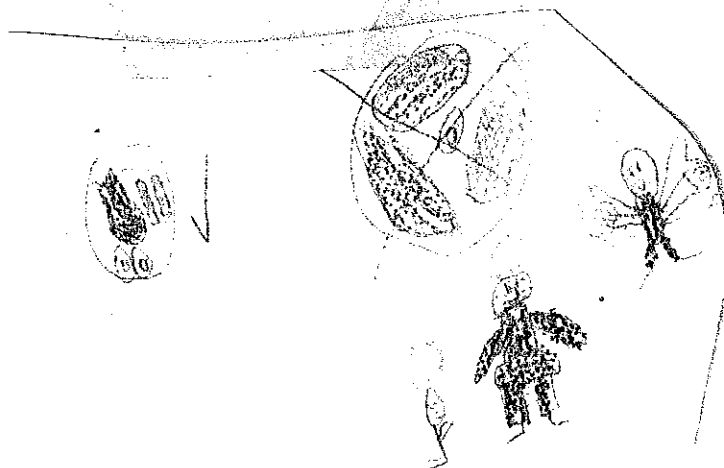
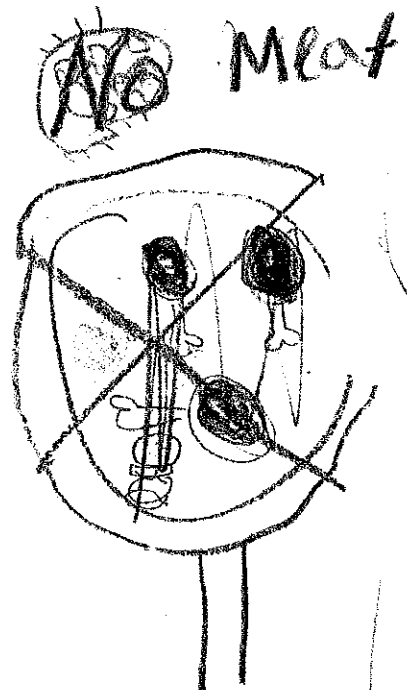
February 16, 2024

Mt 9:14 -- The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not fast?"

In Lent you have to fast. Fasting is eating smaller quantities of food. You do not eat meat (fish and seafood excluded). If you are 13 or under, you no not have to fast.



4th GRADE
FAITH
FORMATION



SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
February 17, 2024

Lk 5:31-32 — “Those who are healthy do not need a physician, but the sick do. I have not come to call the righteous to repentance but sinners.”

Estemos sanos o enfermos todos necesitamos de Dios. Dios dio su vida por nosotros los pecadores; no solo los pecadores sino también los justos porque el amor de Dios es infinito hacia cada uno de nosotros. En la vida que él nos dio hay momentos de tristeza y felicidad. Pero en todo momento debemos agradecerle a él, porque él sabe todo y siente todo lo que nosotros sentimos.

Whether we are healthy or sick, all of us need God. God gave His life for us sinners; not only for the sinners but also for the just because the love of God is infinite towards each one of us. In this life that He gave us there are moments of sadness and of joy. But in every moment we should thank Him because knows all and feels all that we are feeling.

Eulalia Velasco

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

February 18, 2023

Mk 1:12-13 -- The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,
and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.
He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

Jesus
Was Fasting
For 40 Days
Desert was very difficult
Tempted by Devil

Jose

Desert
Sand Dry
Tempted Alone Suffering
He had no food
Hot

Jenicka

Desert
Hot Dry
Fasting Suffering Tempted
Jesus was all alone
Desert

Adayla

Spirit
Took Jesus
Quietly Lonely Peacefully
To a desert in
Israel

Gabriela

Jesus
Stayed in Desert
Fasting Thinking Praying
Tempted by the devil
God

Richard

Desert
Hot Dry
Suffering Fasting Tempted
Jesus was very hot
Temptation

Ian

Satan
Wanted to
Tempt Jesus to
Show his true power
But he disobeyed

Camila

Jesus was
In the desert and stayed
In there for 40 days
and ate nothing
and tempted by Satan
and among beasts
Angels ministered to him

Richard

Desert
Dry Hot
Suffering Fasted Tempted
Jesus had no food
Desert

Lumina Marisol & Jamee

Lent
40 days
Fast Prayer Quiet
We give up pleasure
Ashes

Josue

Jesus
Was Fasting
For forty days
We give up stuff
Son of God

Johnny

Desert
Hot Dry
Fasting Suffering Tempted
He was all alone
Sand

Maria Tenorio

Bare Dry
Fasting Tempted Remade
The Angels were ministering
Jesus

Maria Cardonas

Cinquains by 5th Grade Faith Formation

MONDAY, 1ST WEEK OF LENT
February 19, 2024

Mt 25:32-33 -- And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Jesus being the shepherd, sheep are like his disciples and the goats are not his followers. Those who follow Jesus will be promised eternal life.

Kai Yang Family

TUESDAY, 1ST WEEK OF LENT
February 20, 2024

Mt 6:7-8 -- Jesus said to his disciples: "In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

When we pray God is ready to hear what we have to say because He is a loving and patient father. However, He is most interested in our disposition as we pray: That we come to Him with open hearts and minds seeking His will.

Prayer is not about convincing God of what He should do for us. He already knows what we need to gain eternal life in His Kingdom. Effective prayer is opening ourselves to God so that we might know, accept, and follow His will in our lives.

The more we talk during prayer, the less time we are able to listen and get to know Him as He desires. Spend some time with God in silence.

Peace.

Deacon Ed Konarski

Wednesday of the 1st Week of Lent

February 21, 2024

Luke 11:29- While still more people gathered in the crowd, Jesus said to them, "This generation is an evil generation; it seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah."

Consider this, who was Jonah, and what was his sign? Jonah is the Old Testament prophet who when commanded to go east to Nineveh, quickly went west to the sea to avoid doing God's will. Yet, by trying to avoid the will of God, things just kept getting worse for the man. He even wound up in the belly of a whale for 3 days until he relented and followed God's will. In Matthew's Gospel account of this response, Jesus even mentions the 3 days, foreshadowing his death and 3 days until His resurrection. But the imagery of Jonah in the belly of the whale is not the "sign of Jonah" that Jesus speaks of today, though many of us could see ourselves in Jonah's response. Many of us hear God's word and, disliking the message, go the other way hoping it will all work out. It rarely does.

No, the sign of Jonah was the message he gave to Nineveh. "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed" (Jonah 3:3) or more simply put, "Repent or die!" This is the sign Jesus calls us to understand today, too. Our sins may not physically kill us right away, but they will kill our souls. And we do not know the hour God has prepared for our death. We cannot say, "I am safe, I will wait until next Lent to go to confession for that sin. I'm sure I Have time." Jesus calls us urgently to repent and embrace our relationship and life with him.

The people of Jesus's time were awaiting a spectacular sign or a glorious Messiah with an Army to repel Rome before they would repent and return to God. They never got their sign, and about 40 years after Jesus's death and resurrection Jerusalem would be destroyed by Rome. Don't wait for a sign. Don't ask for a sign. Ask for forgiveness and repent. As Nineveh sat in sackcloth and ashes at the word of Jonah and the Lord repented of his planned destruction of Nineveh, maybe by true repentance our generation can be saved from the consequences of our sins, too.

TJ Robinson

Thursday, 1st Week of Lent
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, Apostle
February 22, 2024

Mt 16:13 "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" Peter declares, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Who is Jesus to us?

Jesus is the Son of God, who came to earth to save us from our sins. He is the light that shines in the darkness, and the hope that we cling to in times of trouble. He is a living person, a friend, and a brother. He is the one who knows us, loves us, and calls us by name. He is the one who forgives us, heals us, and transforms us. He is the one who guides us, strengthens us, and accompanies us. He is the one who invites us to share in his life, his mission, and his glory.

Jesus is our Healer.

He is the one who heals our wounds, and the one who gives us strength to carry on. He is the one who loves us unconditionally, and the one who forgives us when we fall short.

Jesus is our salvation and redemption.

He is the one who died on the cross for our sins, and the one who rose again on the third day. He is the one who reigns in heaven, and the one who will come again to judge the living and the dead.

As we begin our Lent season, we are called to draw closer to Jesus, to deepen our relationship with Him, and to follow Him more closely. We are called to repent of our sins, to turn away from our selfish ways, and to embrace the life of grace that Jesus offers us. We are called to take up our cross and follow Him, to share in His sufferings, and let His love change us.

-Lilik Hartatik-

FRIDAY, 1ST WEEK OF LENT
February 23, 2024

Matthew 5:23-24 -- Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift

What does my brother have against me? What have I done that requires me to leave the altar and be reconciled with him? I have allowed irritation to enter into our conversations and into our relationship. This irritation has agitated and unsettled me; it has turned me away from God. When I speak to my brother about my irritation, I ask for his forgiveness and I tell him that next time, I will strive to turn away from my irritation before it grows, before it enters my words and my deeds. How will I do this? One simple prayer might suffice: Come, Holy Spirit.

Cindy Konarski

SATURDAY, 1ST WEEK OF LENT
February 24, 2024

Mt 5: 43-44 -- Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

Love Your Neighbor

Love your Neighbors and pray for them each day. Though they shun you, love them even more. Follow the lord in all his ways with kindness and goodness, it always pays. And, the Lord will smile down on you all the rest of your days.

By Linda Maher

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
February 25, 2024

Mk 9:2-3 -- Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white

Jesus led three of the disciples: Peter, James, and John up a high mountain to witness His transfiguration to give them a glimpse of things to come. His clothes became dazzling white signifying the majesty and glory placed upon Him by God. In another gospel version, Matthew, God also speaks the words, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." This was to show them the majesty and glory to come for them as well if they place their trust in and listen to Him.

The Lenten season offers us the same hope in sharing in the majesty and glory to come if we place our trust in and listen to Him as well. By following the three principles of Lent-Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving- we to share in the hope of being transfigured into dazzling white and hearing the words "Well done my good and faithful servant."

Steve Seagle

MONDAY, 2nd WEEK OF LENT

February 26, 2024

Lk 6:36 – Jesus said to his disciples: “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”

Taken out of context, this would seem to be a fairly straightforward statement with regard to how we would be expected to act or feel toward others, particularly when they have done something to arouse anger or resentment. In fact, however, this instruction given to his disciples is the conclusion of Jesus’ admonition to all of us in Lk 27 – 36 regarding the love of enemies.

He instructs us to “go the extra mile” when it comes to acts of kindness and forgiveness to those who show us hatred and contempt, even when there is no expectation of a return on our investment of ourselves in others. In this way, we may in some small way model ourselves after Jesus, who gave the ultimate gift of himself on the cross for us, despite our sinful nature, that we might have a path to His heavenly kingdom.

Lew Coates

TUESDAY, 2nd WEEK OF LENT

February 27, 2024

Mt 23:11-12 "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted."

Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is for those who humble themselves. This is sometimes difficult for us to understand because greatness in the eyes of God is different from greatness in the eyes of men.

To be humble is to think of others more than ourselves and to put others' needs ahead of our own. It is also recognizing that we need God and cannot do it all on our own. Humility puts us into a position of needing God and receiving grace from him.

"Dear God, help us to serve the people in our homes and in our community. Help us to turn to you for guidance and to trust in your plan for us." Amen.

Margie Henry

WEDNESDAY, 2ND WEEK OF LENT
February 28, 2024

Matthew 20:28 -- "Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

THURSDAY, 2ND WEEK OF LENT
February 29, 2024

Lk 16:26 -- Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours

I retired for the second time last year. My elderly mother, who lived with me, passed away that same year. I live alone now. Life's responsibilities have become fewer. I have a lot more time for a deeper, more meaningful prayer life, and I'm able to attend daily Mass. I thank God for this time, a time of Mercy. We have all heard cautionary words of how short life is. We must use time wisely, and not let the cares of the world distract us from the one important thing, our salvation. This is the time of Mercy. We don't know how long that time will last. It will be different for each one of us. Today's scripture verse is yet another cautionary word. The time of Mercy will end, and the time of Justice will come upon us. Let's use our time wisely.

Linda McCready

FRIDAY, 2nd WEEK OF LENT

MARCH, 2024

Mt: 21:43-----Therefore, I say to you, " the Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce it's fruits. "

Inner peace and joy result from living our faith. Our mission in life should be to yield a harvest for God by sharing the love of God with others in our actions and deeds. We do not want to lose our place in the kingdom of God. The instructions that Jesus provided are very clear. He gave us what we need to become children of God.

Cathy Gantt

Help the homeless

Feed the hungry

Invite someone to church

Tell someone of God's Love

Help someone find shelter

Visit the sick

SATURDAY, 2ND WEEK OF LENT
March 2, 2024

Lk 15:1-2 --Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Jesus came to earth to save sinners so we could go to heaven and live with him forever. I think we are often like the Pharisees and scribes and judge or look down upon those we consider to be sinners or people who are not like us. How often do we walk on the other side of the sidewalk or turn our head so we don't have to speak to someone who may be addicted to drugs or someone who has no place to live? Jesus doesn't care what we look like, or what our job is or what color hair we have or what addictions we might have or dark secrets we are keeping. He loves us all and wants us to know Him and follow Him so one day we can be in heaven with Him.

If we don't engage with others that are different from us, or make poor decisions, or choose the wrong path, how are they ever going to know about God's love for them. We need to be sharing God's love and the gospel of Jesus Christ to people who are hurting. We can't keep living in a bubble and going about our busy lives ignoring people who we know need Jesus Christ in their lives. Sharing His love and his gospel is going to look different for each of us.

Jesus wants us to welcome all just like he did when he sat and ate with the sinners and tax collectors. Be kind and share his love. We can start by welcoming the new people in our church; talk to them, make them feel like they belong. This is an easy way to start.

What are you going to do today to share God's love to people when you walk outside of church?

Anita McManus

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 3, 2024

Jn 2: 15 He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables,

Why did you cleanse the temple?

It would have been so much easier
to pray in solitude for the filling of the Holy Spirit,
to think of God's love for you,
to contemplate God,
to love your friends,
to think of all things that were
noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable.
Cleansing the temple would mean
facing the rage and fury of those
whose cattle, sheep and doves you released
whose coins you scattered.
Within the week, you would be dead.

You cleansed the temple because
what they did was wrong.
It prevented prayer.

It cheated those who came to worship.
It filled the sanctuary set apart
for the Gentiles with noise.
It rewarded greed

You made a whip of cords,
and you cleansed the temple

Mike Buff

MONDAY, 3rd WEEK OF LENT
March 4, 2024

**Lk 4:24 -- Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth:
"Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.**

Dear Jesus,

You have journeyed throughout Galilee teaching. And today, you are in Nazareth, your hometown, teaching in the synagogue. Yet, as you teach, you begin to feel not welcomed and not accepted by the very people you have known from your youth.

- Perhaps they know you so well that they do not see you as a prophet or teacher.**
- Or, as we see in your words at times, they are afraid to hear the truth you speak – the truth that touches their hearts.**

Today we are almost half-way through the Lenten season. Unlike the people of Nazareth in the synagogue that day, we know the rest of the story. Through the sorrow of your crucifixion and the glory of your resurrection, you have come to set us free from sin.

Now, It is time to say yes to you Lord in our thoughts, our words, and in everything we do in your Name.

- May we welcome you into our hearts as Son of God and Son of Mary.**
- May we accept you as our Lord and Savior.**
- May we hear and be obedient to your words of self-giving love.**
- May we know you better and love you more each day.**
- May we serve you and those you call us to serve.**
- And one day may we be happy with you forever in Heaven.**

**In your Name we pray,
Amen**

Deacon John Martino

TUESDAY, 3RD WEEK OF LENT
March 5, 2024

Mt 18:21-- Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;
....Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
....Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
....Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
....Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
....Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
....Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
....Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
...Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway

Saint Mother Theresa

Contributed by Suzanne Duncan

WEDNESDAY, 3RD WEEK OF LENT
March 6, 2024

Mt 5:17 -- Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

Señor Jesús, tú nos dices que has venido a darle cumplimiento a la ley y a los profetas.

En este tiempo de Cuaresma te rogamos que nos ayudes a examinar nuestras vidas acercándonos a ti, con un corazón contrito y humillado. Observando tus leyes nos damos cuenta que te hemos fallado, sabemos que tú eres el justo juez.

Te rogamos que nos des el don del temor de Dios para no ofenderte, así cumplir tus justas y sagradas leyes.

Lord Jesus, you tell us that you have come to fulfill the law and the prophets.

In this season of Lent we implore you to help us to examine our lives, drawing closer to you with a contrite and humble heart. When we follow your laws we realize that we have failed, we know that you are the just judge.

We ask you to give us the gift of fear of the Lord so that we do not offend you, and thus follow your just and sacred laws.

Familia Castro

The Castro Family

THURSDAY, 3RD WEEK OF LENT
March 7, 2024

Lk 11:17 -- "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house.

We as a nation must commit ourselves to God's will instead of our own and acknowledge God as the master of things. But because of our selfish control we think we know what is best for us. That's when our faith and spiritual values become encouraging in our beliefs.

Kai Yang Family

FRIDAY, 3RD WEEK OF LENT

March 8, 2024

Mk 12:29-31 -- "Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone!
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other
commandment greater than these."

Reflections on this familiar passage cannot help but take on a personal edge, particularly when the subject of Love is considered. We are expected to love our Lord with our entire being, and our neighbors as ourselves.

But how do we find the kind of love that changes our lives? The answer is within each of us. HE LOVED US FIRST. To simplify the concept, consider this conversation between a parent and child.

Child (to parent): I love you Daddy/Mommy

Parent (to child): I loved you first!

God loved us before we were born. He made us to love, and poured Himself into us, sprinkling seeds of kindness, compassion, empathy, and fairness within our hearts. In loving us, he gave us unique talents and abilities: the traits that make us who we are. When in life, we use our talents and we succeed, we look around as if to say "Did I really do that?" We were simply using what we've had all along. In quiet solitude we recognize that we are who we were created to be, and we are grateful.

Finding our way to our authentic selves, and recognizing our own "uniqueness," is to see the hand of God. We are not accidents. We are not without purpose. In recognizing that we are loved by God, we finally know the kind of love we will spend the rest of our lives trying to return. We walk through life as if all of our senses are amplified: we know greater appreciation for our natural world, a heightened awareness and compassion for those who suffer, a greater capacity to accept, and an ever increasing desire to understand.

We look to our Father with humble and thankful hearts, and we, His children, want nothing more than for our Father to be pleased with us. We love our neighbors as ourselves, not out of a sense of obligation, but because we are children of the same God. If we curse, belittle, or speak harshly of our neighbor, we have lost our way; as if walking a path where we throw our gratitude to the side, forgetting to honor His wishes.

We Love our one true God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and all our strength.

Leigh Mazaleski

SATURDAY, 3RD WEEK OF LENT
March 9, 2024

Lk 18:14 --“...everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Lord,

Your grace and mercy is what I desire, but not what I deserve. Help me to be truly humble and acknowledge that everything I have and everything I am is because of You. Grant me the wisdom to recognize my shortcomings and learn from my mistakes. Teach me to serve with a selfless heart and to always seek Your will above my own. Make me small so that You may be more visible within me. Help me to be like the tax collector saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!”

Amen

Ashleigh Benson

SUNDAY, 4TH WEEK OF LENT

March 10, 2024

John 9:2-3 --“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

We tend to believe that disease or disability is a consequence of one's neglect, carelessness, or poor choices. However, God allows us to suffer as a "test" of faith. A person without faith will look to blame someone or something for his/her misfortune. A person with faith will accept his/her condition as God's will.

Rudy Medina

MONDAY, 4th WEEK OF LENT

March 11, 2024

Jn 4:48 -- "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

In today's world everyone's looking for the spotlight, fireworks, or the big reveal.

Faith is the wow factor.

Faith opens our eyes to God's Glory.

Faith allows us to see God in everything around us.

Faith not only allows us to see God's presence, but allows us to feel God's warm embrace.

Faith protects us from the fears and doubts the world throws at us.

Faith will allow people to see the signs and wonders of God's presence in you.

Korey Benson

TUESDAY, 4th WEEK OF LENT
March 12, 2024

Jn 5:14-16 -- After this Jesus found him in the temple area and said to him, "Look, you are well; do not sin any more, so that nothing worse may happen to you." The man went and told the Jews that Jesus was the one who had made him well. Therefore, the Jews began to persecute Jesus because he did this on a sabbath.



WEDNESDAY. 4th WEEK OF LENT

March 13, 2024

Jn 5:25 -- Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live.

The dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. Well, one thing is for sure— the voice of the Son of God is a POWERFUL voice.

So what will the Son of God say? How will we understand it? Will it be like the tongues of flame at Pentecost where everyone understands, each in their own language? Will it be like the voice of God commanding all of creation into being? Will the voice of the Son of God be so powerful as to not even require words?

What will the voice sound like? A trumpet? Thunder? The sound of rushing waters? Will the voice come in a whirlwind, earthquake, or fire? Will it come in the sheer silence; the still small voice such as Elijah experienced on Mount Horeb? Will it call to us as it did with Samuel? “Speak, for your servant is listening.” Will the voice crack the cedars, shake the desert, make the deer dance, and strip the forests bare as described in the psalms?

I don’t think we need to worry about all the possibilities concerning the voice of the Son of God. In the Gospel of John, Jesus announces that his sheep hear his voice and that he knows them, and that they follow him. Jesus says that he gives them eternal life and they shall never perish, and that no one can take them out of his hand. Also in the Gospel of John, Jesus says “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.”

Jesus is knocking. May we listen for his voice, open the door, and dine together. Let us also seek to trust and obey Jesus’ words. We needn’t look any further than Jesus’ own mother as the perfect model of obedience to Christ. Recall the wedding feast at Cana, where Jesus turns water into wine. Mary tells the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” (If you aren’t listening and do not obey, you risk missing out on a great miracle!)

Sarah Lynch

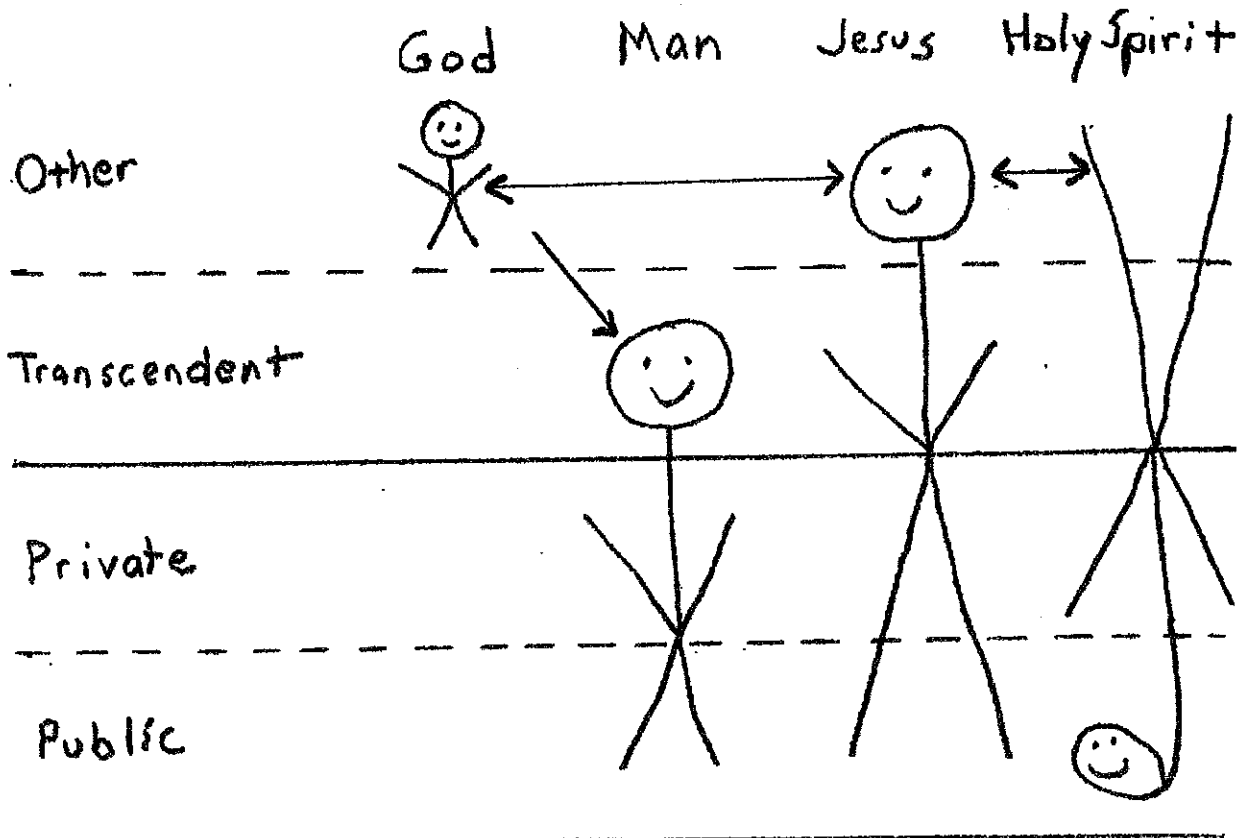
THURSDAY, 4th WEEK OF LENT
March 14, 2024

Jn 5:31-32 -- "Jesus said to the Jews: "If I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is not true. But there is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that the testimony he gives on my behalf is true.

*O God,
You raised up St. John the Baptist
to prepare a perfect person for Christ.
We call upon St. John's intercession
to properly prepare us with a true
sense of repentance to receive Your
grace and salvation.
Make us faithful to Truth and justice,
as You did Your servant,
John the Baptist, herald of Your Son's
birth and death. Lord, may You increase
Your life within us.
Amen.*

FRIDAY, 4th WEEK OF LENT
March 15, 2024

Jn 7:28-29 -- "You know me and also know where I am from.
Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom
you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him,
and he sent me."



SATURDAY, 4th WEEK OF LENT
March 16, 2024

Jn 7:40-41 -- Some in the crowd who heard these words of Jesus said, "This is truly the Prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But others said, "The Christ will not come from Galilee, will he?"

Write your own reflection here.

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 17, 2024

Jn 12:25 -- Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.

A person who has the love for money and materialistic possessions will only care for that desire rather than their spiritual and cultural values. Those who follow Christ would not have to worry about what they have because everything will be provided.

Kai Yang Family

MONDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT
March 18, 2024

Jn 7:10-11 -- Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

This scripture is a reminder of how Justice and Mercy can be applied to what is considered even the most unforgivable sin. According to the severity of this woman's sin of adultery, justice meant she deserved to be stoned to death, and Jesus who is free from sin had all the authority to do so. However, instead of Jesus condemning her like all her other accusers, he reminds us that we are all sinners and should have mercy on one another. It shows, that If Jesus, being without sin, was unwilling to condemn and stone this woman to death, then who are we to judge and condemn others?

Overall, this scripture reminds us that even when we don't deserve it; Jesus is a just and merciful savior who is eager to forgive our sins. When we fall short and sin against one another, instead of condemning and accusing each other, we should focus our attention on Jesus and ask for his mercy and forgiveness of our sins and make a commitment to go and sin no more against each other.

-Isabel

TUESDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT
Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
March 19, 2024

Mt 1:18-19 -- Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly.

Joseph, man
Joseph, husband
Joseph, righteous
Joseph, steadfast
Joseph, protector
Joseph, faithful
Joseph, humble
Joseph, thoughtful
Joseph, honorable
Joseph, chosen one
Joseph, _____

Who do you say that he was?

Joseph, full of grace, the Lord was with him.

Blessed was he among men.

Terri Martino

WEDNESDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT
March 20, 2024

Jn 8:31-32 – Jesus said to those Jews who believed in him,
"If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Para ser verdaderos discípulos de Jesús hay que perseverar en su palabra, porque solamente en su palabra conocemos realmente que es la verdad.

- *La verdad—sobre nuestra fe como católicos*
- *La verdad—que nos lleva a escuchar más su palabra*
- *La verdad—que nos lleva a amar más a su Iglesia*

In order to be true disciples of Jesus we must persevere in His word, because only in His word do we really know what truth is.

- *Truth—about our faith as Catholics*
- *Truth—which leads us to listen even more to His word*
- *Truth—that leads us to love His Church more*

Maximiliano Monroy

THURSDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT
March 21, 2024

Jn 8:57-58 -- So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old and you have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, men, I say to you, before Abraham came to be, I AM."

I wrote the reflection for February 15 for the Christians like myself that sometimes live a contradictory life. Acting one way with my church friends but remaining silent when the opportunity to speak the Gospels arises. Too often we want to fit in so we set our Christian values aside. Although we might not always put God first; an eternal life with Jesus is always available to us if we just pick up our cross and follow Him.

Amber King

FRIDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT
March 22, 2024

Jn 34-36 -- Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, 'You are gods'"? If it calls them gods to whom the word of God came, and Scripture cannot be set aside, can you say that the one whom the Father has consecrated and sent into the world blasphemes because I said, 'I am the Son of God'?"

Majestic sovereign, timeless wisdom,
your kindness melts my hard, cold soul.
Handsome lover, selfless giver,
your beauty fills my dull, sad eyes.
I am yours, you made me.
I am yours, you called me.
I am yours, you saved me.
I am yours, you loved me.
I will never leave your presence.
Give me death, give me life.
Give me sickness, give me health.
Give me honor, give me shame.
Give me weakness, give me strength.
I will have whatever you give. Amen

St. Teresa of Avila

SATURDAY, 5th WEEK OF LENT

March 23, 2024

Jn11:47-48 -- So the chief priests and the Pharisees convened the Sanhedrin and said, "What are we going to do? This man is performing many signs. If we leave him alone, all will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our land and our nation."

The Pharisees and High Priests were in charge of "Hebrew Law". They saw how many of their people had begun to follow "Jesus and listen to his teachings. They became frightened and cast dispersion on him. The Pharisees were all about Power and Control. Jesus continued to preach Love. Many today still seek "POWER". We must remember to follow Jesus and Love One Another.

Patricia Olsson

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

• March 24, 2024

Mk 14:27-30 -- Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed.* Peter said to him, "Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be."

Dearest Lord Jesus,

Whereupon this Holy Day, (on my own Mount of Olives,) Your entrance into Jerusalem, in the fulfillment of the Pascal Mystery, makes my soul cry out with repentance and humility, reflecting the wilted loyalties of my faith, past and present. You foretold that all, but you, would have their faith shaken, which, in turn, would affect many. Thereby go!!

Lord, forgive me! My broken Promises cry out in anguish, begging forgiveness, and nourishment from the Wisdom of Heaven, enough to carry me home. Sadly, oft times, a desert rolls over me. I have no footing in the sand, and it is You Lord, holding me up, getting me through, by Your Passion. You swallowed the darkness from the lives of all, allowing mercy, and giving us freedom through Your Salvation. How do I thank You! As is perfect Your Love, mine is never sufficient (so far from perfect) and of this, I am certain and regretful.

Great was Peter's pain when his well-meaning promises of fidelity were broken.... A desperate loss of self, from You Christ Jesus. (Never intended!)

The fullness of Your love and the joy of Your presence will allow the freedom to love others. Yes, there is an exquisite freedom about it! You, with the Father, are the originators of love. (Praise You!) Without Your Joy, life is meaningless and empty. Forgiveness, through Your precious heart, along with my own "pardon of others" will fuel the heart depth of any soul (hopefully mine,) through and with the compassion it offers.

Therein the sanctuary of my very own being, and the blatant crevices of my soul, I ask You Lord, to destroy the ignorance's within me. Though my words are inadequate, and difficult to speak, with faith and trust You made it possible to be able to reach out, up, and into Your arms for safety, where, (I pray) one day, to spend Eternity with You.

Meanwhile, if the light within, flickers, dims, and I fail to notice, I will remember this Holy Day, and the redemptive suffering of Holy Week, by the resurgence of the Light. Jesus, You are the Light and the Savior of the World. You paid the penalty for sin! O Lord God, Lamb of God, You who takes away the sins of the world.... have mercy on us! I love, and need You more than I can say. Let Your Graces consume me and all those who love You.

Hear our prayer for worthiness.... In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end....

AMEN!

*Your child,
Dorothy*

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

March 25, 2024

John 12:7-8 --- Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Let her keep this for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me".

I had to read and re-read this scripture message several times and then spend time contemplating on what personal meaning it carried to me. For me, this message was (and is) clear: rather than criticizing manners and methods of how others support our Lord's words, what do I do to support His words? He asks us to care for the underserved, the poor, the challenged, the sick and frail. How do my actions in life reflect His request?

Giving to others is so personal, so individual and so unique in many ways. Often, I hear that one gives time, talent and treasure. Those traits are very personal and for many of us they are a result of what we observed and were taught throughout our childhood. A memory from my childhood vividly reflects my parents' quiet way of giving back. Years and years ago, while the three of us were eating supper in our kitchen, someone knocked on our door. My father answered the door and escorted a man into the kitchen. He was quiet, his cap was in his hand, and he thanked my mother for her generosity. Mother got up, placed another chair at our table and he joined us for supper. After supper, he quietly got up, thanked my parents and left our house. I then asked my parents who he was and was told that he was a stranger who needed food and comfort. I have never forgotten that supper and have reflected on my parents' kindness and faith many times over these years.

We all can give by volunteerism, by monetary donations and simple acts of kindness. In my mind, a smile given to a stranger, helping a person with a grocery cart, extending a hand in sincere friendship, and sending a card of warm thoughts to a lonely person are all examples of honoring our Lord. When we unselfishly use the benefits of the blessings given to us for the good of others, we are caring for Christ.

Mary Fortin

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

March 26, 2024

Jn 13:31-32 -- "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and he will glorify him at once.

This passage was a little confusing to me. This poem from Meister Eckhart, 1260-1327 AD, a German mystic helped clarify this passage for me. Perhaps it will do the same for you.

Do you want to know
what goes on in the core of the Trinity
I will tell you.
In the core of the Trinity
the Father laughs
and gives birth to the Son.
The Son laughs back at the Father
and gives birth to the Spirit.
The whole Trinity laughs
and gives birth to us.

Prayer: May we be open to the indwelling spirit of God and its action within us. And may it express itself in the action of love.

Don Hemstreet

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

March 27, 2024

Mt 26:21-22 -- "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me."
Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,
"Surely it is not I, Lord?"

Betrayal. Betrayal is a pretty harsh word. It basically means giving information to an enemy as Judas did. But what about the other eleven? They all ran away leaving Jesus alone. In the Gospel of Luke 22:31-42 Jesus had given Peter the script: "Simon, Simon, Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail; and once you have turned back, you must strengthen your brothers."

Listen to this prayer from Thomas Merton.

Good Shepherd, You have a crazy sheep in love with the thorns and brambles. But please don't get tired of looking for me! I know you won't. For You have found me. All I have to do is stay found.

Prayer: Thank you, Jesus, for loving me in spite of my stuff. Pray for me Holy Mother of God that I may be worth of the promise of Christ, in spite of my running away and wanderings.

Don Hemstreet

THURSDAY OF HOLY WEEK: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
March 28, 2024

Piececitos

by Gabriela Mistral

Piececitos de niño,
azulosos de frío,
¡cómo os ven y no os cubren,
Dios mío!

¡Piececitos heridos
por los guijarros todos,
ultrajados de nieves
y lodos!

El hombre ciego ignora
que por donde pasáis,
una flor de luz viva
dejaís;

que allí donde ponéis
la plantita sangrante,
el nardo nace más
fragrante.

Sed, puesto que macháis
por los caminos rectos,
heróicos como sois
perfectos.

Piececitos de niño,
dos joyitas sufrientes,
¡cómo pasan sin veros
las gentes!

Little Feet

by Gabriela Mistral, tr. Doris Dana

Little feet of children
blue with cold,
how can they see you and not cover you—
dear God!

Little wounded feet
cut by every stone,
hurt by snow
and mire.

Man, blind, does not know
that where you pass,
you leave a flower
of living light.

And where you set
your little bleeding foot,
the spikenard blooms
more fragrant.

Walking straight paths,
be heroic, little feet,
as you are
perfect.

Little feet of children,
two tiny suffering jewels,
how can people pass
and not see you!

FRIDAY OF HOLY WEEK: GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION
March 30, 2024

my biggest fear is that you will not see me here
i am not lost
am not to be found
i am here

you may see the stare
you may see the emptiness of expression
you may see the stillness
i am here
waiting for you to come

i still have joy
my spirit still sings
i have all the love
open the door
come into my room
i am here

i am here waiting
i just can't move
can't open the door and come out

my biggest fear is that you will not see me here
don't walk on by.

Michael Leo Koontz

HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL

March 30, 2024

Milpa **Por Ernesto Cardenal**

El maíz está enterrado, invisible como los muertos en tu milpa.

Sólo montoncitos y montoncitos de
tierra como las pirámides de los muertos
en la milpa de los muertos.

Pero ya vendrán los chac con sus calabazos
(sus machetes son los relámpagos)

los chorreadores

los chac transparentes, color de lluvia
que están sumergidos en los cenotes
y se reúnen en las noches de junio
en las ruinas de Cobá.

Y vendrán los balam, los guardianes de las milpas con sus cuerpos color de aire

Los balam que vuelan invisibles sobre los árboles, y los oís silbar, los oís silbar de noche en los caminos arriando los espíritus malos.

Y el pájaro x-kol cantará en las milpas

Para hacer crecer el maíz

Crezcan más, crezcan más (de mata en mata)

Y para hacer feliz el maíz.

Con el viento del oriente vendrán las lluvias
Vendrán del oriente, de donde sale el sol

Y salen la luna y las estrellas
del oriente, de donde están las ruinas de
Cobá.

milpa—cornfield

chac—god of rain

Cobá—probably Cobán, site of Mayan ruins

Milpa By Ernesto Cardenal

The corn is buried, invisible as the dead
in your milpa

Only many little mounds of soil like
the pyramids of the dead
in the milpa of thee dead.

Yet the chac with their gourds will come
(their machetes are strokes of lightning

The drippers

The transparent chac, the color of rain
submerged in the cenotes
and gather in the night of June
in the ruin at Cobá.

And the balam will come, guardians of the milpas

with their air-colored bodies

The balam who fly invisibly over the trees
and you can hear them whistle, you can
hear them

whistle at night on the roads, herding the
evil spirits.

And the x-kol bird will sing in the milpas

To make the corn grow

Grow more, grow more (from plant to plant)

And to make the corn happy.

With the eastern wind the rains will come
They will come from the East, from where
the sun

rises, and the moon and the stars rise
 from the east, where the ruins of Cobá are.

Cenote—sink hole, Maya entrance to realm of gods

Balam—guardian spirit

