

LISTEN ONLY TO
THE VOICE OF GOD!

third
sunday
of LENT



San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

March 8, 2015

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

The temple in Jerusalem was a sign to the Jews of God's presence and saving works. This sign could be corrupted, however, by human beings who turn away from the temple's true purpose. Enraged, Jesus takes "a whip" and drives out of the temple area those who corrupt the sign. Then Jesus announces both **a new temple** (his own body) that could not be corrupted and **a new sign** ("raised from the dead") that would draw those who come to believe in him to **a whole new reality**.



God's presence and saving works are not found in bricks and mortar, but in the Risen Body of Christ. Now we are the new temple: the living signs of God's Presence and saving works. This new living sign is no longer a place of bricks and mortar but a relationship of fidelity to a new temple—the Risen Jesus.

The simple call of the gospel is to see the living signs of God's Presence in our midst—different signs which draw us into the deepest reality of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Jesus showed us the signs so clearly: he was crucified and then raised up. The signs are there for us to see and believe.

Words to reflect upon: a new temple, a new sign, a whole new reality

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 1 Timothy 2:1

LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY for the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Jerry Vega, Fr. Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, Maggie Maziarz, and Peter and Leida Fiorito.



Prayer
Requests

Today is International Woman's Day. Let us join our hearts in prayer today and all this week for the women in our lives and in the whole world, especially those who are refugees or living imprisoned and abused.

PRAYING LENT

...put Thou my tears in thy bottle! Are they not in thy book? When King David cried out his lament in Psalm 56 he was scarcely 30 years old. Despite his youth, he had already suffered much in the service of God and of his people but he was comforted in the knowledge that the Lord God took particular notice of his suffering and of his grief. David paints this picture so beautifully, saying that God has a bottle where he collects all of his people's tears and a book where he notes their afflictions, so that he will never forget them. David is so sure that God does not forget the pain of his people that he takes heart and goes on praising God in faithful service. Can we do any less? What is your lament this **Lent**? Where are your tears? Do you realize yet that they are all being collected in God's bottle?

**...put Thou my tears in thy bottle!
Are they not in thy book?**

Psalm 56:8

PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE



Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

To what do the "foolishness" and "weakness" of God refer? St. Paul says the Jews had a problem accepting Christ crucified. What about you; how do you accept him? And what about the crosses in your own life? Can they be "stumbling blocks" for you too?

Gospel John 2:13-25

John says that "Jesus did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well". What does this tell you about Jesus? What does this tell you about your relationship with Jesus? Is it helpful to know this, or fearsome?

**Lent is about paring down the dross to arrive at the essential.
And to do it with a light heart!**

THE PRACTICE OF LENT

A Lenten Exercise for Forgiveness

First, write a list of every person who ever hurt you—relatives and neighbors, co-workers and colleagues, church members and politicians. (Beware; such a list can grow long.) Your list complete, write a formal prayer. Tell God that you forgive each one, you forgive them by name. Then ask the God of mercy to forgive you yourself. Do this every day for the rest of **Lent**.



READING THOMAS MERTON FOR LENT

A multitude of books, essays, articles. Commentaries and reflections have already been published commemorating the centenary (1915-2015) of Thomas Merton. Notable among them is We Are Already One (Fons Vitae), a newly released book of short essays from 100 contributors to honor Merton and the impact of his life and work on our modern world.

The following is an excerpt from one of these essays, "What We Have To Be Is What We Are: Merton's Unfinished Agenda".

"Merton's continuing insistence that there is no real spiritual development until we plumb the depth of the self to determine who we are—without the masks, without the labels—is a call to honesty and to self-criticism. The difficulty lies in the fact that both qualities are long lost in the Madison Avenue approach to life. In this world, life becomes a matter of creating images of who I aspire to be rather than setting out to understand who I really am. What really drives me, what I really think and want and care about are the raw materials of me. It is out of these things that the self emerges, shapes and forms itself, and finally, finally, finally comes to fullness."

"What Merton calls us to do as part of this slow but fulfilling process depends on the raw and ruthless debunking of the self to the self that is the ground of humility"...but it is not a simple process". Have we wetted your appetite for more Merton? I hope so. **Enjoy your reading!**

A LENTEN MEDITATION

Connecting today's Gospel to our experience: Jesus destroyed exaggerated emphasis on the religious structures of Israel. Today do we ourselves still look for God too much only in religious structures (church buildings, formal worship services, traditional prayers)? If Christ destroyed all this, would there be faith and life left for us?

THE VOICES OF LENT

Isaiah 58:1-11

Shout! A full-throated shout!
Hold nothing back—a trumpet-blast shout!
Tell my people what's wrong with their lives,
face my family Jacob with their sins!
They're busy, busy, busy at worship,
and love studying all about me.
To all appearances they're a nation of right-living
people—law-abiding, God-honoring.
They ask me, "What's the right thing to do?
and love having me on their
side.

But they also complain,
"Why do we fast and you
don't look our way?
Why do we humble
ourselves and you don't
even notice?"

Well, here's why:

The kind of fasting you do
won't get your prayers off
the ground.

Do you think this is the kind of fast day I'm after:
a day to show off humility?
To put on a pious long face
and parade around solemnly in black?
Do you call that fasting,
a fast day that I, God, would like?

This is the kind of fast day I'm after:

To break the chains of injustice,
Get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
Free the oppressed,
Cancel debts.

What I'm interested in seeing you do is:

sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.
Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.
Then when you pray, God will answer.
You'll call out for help and I'll say, "Here I am."



Join the Jesuits on an Ignatian Pilgrimage for Lent 2015 by taking part in IGNITING OUR VALUES, the Jesuits' prayer program for **Lent** 2015. Just Google **A Jesuit/Ignatian Pilgrimage For Lent** to register.