

CELEBRATE LENT

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Find what drives you most and pour your energy into it. That's where purpose begins.

Joshua 5:9-12

Manna and quail, the food of the desert, were no longer necessary once they had reached the land which the Lord, God had promised. The people of Israel fed on the fruits of the land which God had given.

Israel journeyed.....God was with them providing for their journey, keeping them safe and secure.... Be faithful on your journey!

Israel reached the end of their journey.... reached the Promised Land and there they ate, not manna of the desert, but fruits of the land which was God's gift...God's gifts of promise...Celebrate God's gifts!

Psalm 34

Psalm 34 is a thanksgiving Psalm in acrostic form, each line beginning with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The psalmist, fresh from the experience of being rescued, can teach the "poor," those who are defenseless, to trust in God alone. God will make them powerful and give them protection (34:11). The powerful: literally, "lions". Fierce animals were sometimes metaphors for influential people. (12) Children: the customary term for students in Wisdom literature.

**I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
The lowly will hear me and be glad.**

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Paul says that God has reconciled us to himself in Jesus and so we have become a new creation. To be reconciled is to be made new, to be made "different" from what was, to be "made otherwise", to be "transformed".

This means change, healing, growth, new attitudes, new values, new relationships, a whole new way of living where hatred is transformed into love, hostilities are changed

into hospitalities, injustice is changed into justice, alienation into friendship, swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks.....

Be reconciled in Christ! Let it transform you into a new person!

Let it help you form new relationships and heal broken relationships!

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

In this excerpt, we read one of the most familiar stories of the Gospel, the parable of the prodigal son. This is a story of running away from home, turning around in repentance, and being embraced by forgiving love. We meet a father who lets his son make his own choices and regretfully lets him go his way and welcomes him back, without conditions, on his return.

We meet a son who rejects the love of the family and chooses to abandon everything that the family represented for him, encountering personal failures and eventually turning around in repentance and seeking forgiveness and healing.

We meet another son who fails to understand the heart of his father and refuses to forgive and accept his repentant brother.

This is a very moving and inspiring and challenging story. This story is a "Gospel" in itself. It is the Gospel, the good news of God's forgiving, healing, steadfast, unconditional and all-embracing love.

Learn to recognize your own failures and sinfulness and return home to God!

Learn to forgive your brother from the heart!

Learn to trust in the unconditional, forgiving, all-embracing love of God in Jesus.

Saint of the Day, March 30 - St. Peter Regalado and 14 other saints are remembered this day

Peter Regalado was born of wealthy and devout parents at Valladolid in Spain in 1390. He lost his father at an early age. At the age of 13, he was allowed to enter the Conventual Franciscans. Shortly after his ordination, he was made superior of the friary in Aguilar. He became part of a group of friars who wanted to lead a life of greater poverty and penance. In 1442, he was appointed head of all the Spanish Franciscans in his reform group.

Peter led the friars by his example. A special love of the poor and the sick characterized Peter. Miraculous stories are told about his charity to the poor. For example, the bread never seemed to run out as long as Peter had hungry people to feed. Throughout most of his life, Peter went hungry; he lived only on bread and water. Immediately after his death on March 31, 1456, his grave became a place of pilgrimage. Peter was canonized in 1746.

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