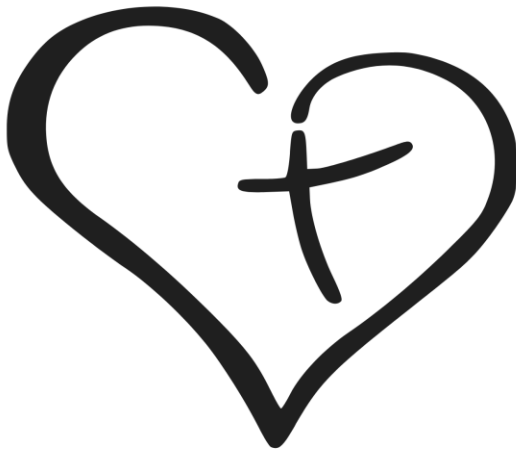


Love Changes Everything
Queen of All Saints
Lenten Parish Mission



Wednesday, February 28
Perfect love casts out fear,
encountering love on the margins

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I. WELCOME/RECAP FROM YESTERDAY

II. ENCOUNTERING LOVE ON THE MARGINS

“Each Christian and every community must discern the path that the Lord points out, but all of us are asked to obey his call to go forth from our own comfort zone in order to reach all the ‘peripheries’ ... Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.” -Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*

Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy.

*Else we may find ourselves treading on someone else's dreams;
more serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival.*
Max Warren

The mystery of the poor is this: That they are Jesus, and what you do for them you do for Him. It is the only way we have of knowing and believing in our love. The mystery of poverty is that by sharing in it, making ourselves poor in giving to others, we increase our knowledge of and belief in love. -from “The Mystery of the Poor” by Dorothy Day

It is hard for me to accept that the best I can do is probably not to give but to receive. By receiving in a true and open way, those who give to me can become aware of their own gifts. After all, we come to recognize our own gifts in the eyes of those who receive them gratefully. Gratitude thus becomes the central virtue of a missionary. And what else is the Eucharistic life than a life of gratitude? -from “Gracias” by Henri Nouwen

*Christ has no body on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ looks out upon
the world. Ours are the feet with which He goes about doing good.*

Ours are the hands with which He blesses His people.

~ St. Teresa of Avila

All the good that you will do will come not from you
but from the fact that you have allowed yourself,
in the obedience of faith, to be used by God's love.
-Thomas Merton, Letter to a Young Activist

*What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot.
But together we can do something beautiful for God.
Mother Teresa*

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1-What are the unique gifts God has given to you? And how can those gifts be used in service to those in need?

2-Where is your "comfort zone" and what would it look like to take one step beyond your comfort zone this Lent?

3-How are the Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving inviting me to encounter those on the margins?

III. REFLECTION / MEDITATION

- Something I learned ...
- Something that challenged me ...
- Something I want to remember ...

IV. CLOSING

RESOURCES:

Music On My Spotify List:

- Act Justly, Bernadette Farrell
- The Summons, John Bell
- This Is My Song, Lloyd Stone/Viking Chorus
- Your Peace Will Make Us One, Audrey Assad
- Holy Spirit We're Calling You, Ed Bolduc

Prophets of a Future Not Our Own
by Bishop Ken Untener, Saginaw MI

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime, only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about. We are the seeds that one day will grow. We water the seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need future development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. It enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, and an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

FALL IN LOVE

Nothing is more practical than finding God,
that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination,
will affect everything.

It will decide what will get you out of the bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends,
what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart,
what amazes you with joy and gratitude.

Fall in love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.

- Pedro Arrupe, SJ