

Lenten Reflection

Friday, February 12, 2016

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Today we are called to “seek good and not evil.” We can confidently feel pretty good about ourselves. It is hard to imagine any person reading this, religious or lay, who would deliberately seek evil. We pray, try to be nice and caring, and hold our tongue so many times that it should have taken on a different shape by now. We are told in the first reading that fasting is good for us, but not if it ends in quarreling and fighting. That is not the fast our Lord wants from us. Jesus calls us to do and be more. We are summoned to make His Church alive.

In the letters we write, in the words we say, in the looks from our eyes, with the touch of our hands, we must bring the Jesus we love to a world that doesn't know that He is much more than a figure in history. To bring Him fully alive, we must cherish His presence within ourselves and those we meet.

To be fully alive is to wake up the giftedness in ourselves so that we can wake up the giftedness in each person we encounter. If we consider ourselves alive, we must dig deep to open any unused gifts bestowed on us from above. The world is waiting for us to become alive so others may come to know, love and serve Him. Fast from ways that do not fill you with life.

How many people who are down and out await their release from “captivity” by us? During this Lent, let us see how alive with Christ we can become. Think of new ways to bring forth the good news. Shout it out from the mountain tops, the third floor, St. Joseph's Center, our workplace, and/or our living room. Pray for those we have never included in prayer. Whatever it takes, let us do something that reawakens the yearning to be united with the God who made us. When others can tell that we are Christians by our love, we truly will be the Church alive!

Most merciful Lord, wake us up each day singing your praise by the way we live. Lift up our hearts with that splendid yearning that will speak to others of your resurrected glory.