

Taking Inventory of our Lenten Journey

by Deacon George Kain



Image taken from St Joseph and Paul Catholic Church, Owensboro, KY

The following is a modification from a reflection that I provided 2 years ago. I came upon it while perusing some old files that I thought about deleting. I'm not deleting it- in fact, I'm passing it on here. It spoke to my heart again. I suppose that it should never get old! I pray that you find it useful.

We are now over the halfway point on our Lenten journey. It seems to be an appropriate time to think about some Lenten reflection questions that are important for us to consider. For example:

“So, how is my Lent going? How have I been challenged so far? Have I actively been seeking a renewal of my heart or simply waiting for something to strike me out of the blue?”

Yes, it takes some work to get through the season of Lent. But here is a suggestion that might make this journey through Lent, now in the home stretch, just a bit more fruitful. Rather than trying to answer these questions for ourselves, we can ask the Holy Spirit to place our questions before the Lord and to prayerfully await his responses. These questions are not easy to ask, and we may need help in reflecting on their meaning.

In some ways, asking the question is more important than hearing an answer. This is because when we ask these difficult questions, only God can provide the accurate answers. But when we place the questions before the Lord, he recognizes our willingness to hear the answers, and he provides a response. Consider these responses to the questions posed:

Q: “How is my Lent going, Lord?” A: “Allow me to show you how much that I love you.”

Q: “Have I allowed you to challenge me?” A: “There is still more time for me to bring you closer to me.”

Q: “Have I actively been seeking renewal of my heart?” A: “Have you heard me call you by name in your prayer?”

So here is the point: we must ask the questions! There is still plenty of time for our Lord to show us how much he loves us, to bring us closer to him, and for us to hear him call us by name. In doing this, may we come to live in deeper union with him as we prepare for the renewal of our minds and hearts at the joyful celebration of our risen Lord on Easter.