

## Lenten Retreat Reflection

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Jesus then said to the twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”

(John 6:67)

As Peter so boldly answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?” As I reflect on my life up to this point, I have had many wonderful opportunities to be thankful for, and yet have never said the words. I have also had many dark and lonely times in my life, that I should have been thankful for, and still have not said the words. This question has brought me to a very surreal and painful reality, that I have been like those that walked away, never realizing that God has always been with me and I have taken his presents for granted.

Every morning I thank God for giving me another day to do his will, but lately because of the pandemic, I feel like I am wandering around in the desert. It has been difficult for me to watch people in our community who have given into the quarantine and have secluded themselves from their neighbors and God. We are living this Lenten time as Jesus did when he was tempted by Satan. To whom shall we go to Lord? Do not give up my friends, we have only to look to the heavens to see that we have the angels and Saints to minister and guide us as they did for Jesus during his time of trials.

There are three traditional pillars to follow during Lent which are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Do as many as you are able to during these forty day and let us strive to be kind and compassionate to all. Let us not walk away from God but walk toward him. Let us not blame God for all the bad things and suffering but let us offer it up in thanksgiving. Let us pick up our Crosses and follow him.

A Prayer during Lent:

Almighty and Everlasting God,

You have given the human race Jesus Christ as our savior and model of humility.

He fulfilled Your Will by becoming man and giving His life on the Cross.

Help us to bear witness to You by following His example of suffering and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son, Amen

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