

Reflection Thursday Lent 1 – 2021

By going to the King uninvited, Queen Esther could have been put to death. She was willing to risk her life in order to plead for the salvation of her people. Her prayer was heard and her people were saved. What is significant is that she did not plead for her own life or want anything for herself, she pleaded for the safety of her people. This is something we have been doing since the first Lockdown last year through our novenas asking for an end to the virus that plagues the world. Jesus supports this when he says, *“Be good to those around you and I will be good to you by answering your prayers.”* Generally, when we pray for the good, well-being, health, forgiveness for others, we will always benefit. This Lent more than ever the call to pray for others grows stronger. Health care workers at all levels are sacrificing their lives, like Esther, for the health and welfare of the nation. Many, if not all, of our concerns are for the health and welfare of family and friends, especially when they are attacked by the virus. One of the lessons of the pandemic is that it will not be defeated unless we **all** work together. Injustices in a nation can never be overcome unless people work together and call for change. Numbers are needed for political change to happen. When Vincent Donovan went to the Maasai to preach the Gospel, they were struck by what he said and many believed, but the leaders of the community would not agree to be baptised unless every member of the tribe agreed to it, which eventually they did. They did not want anyone in the tribe to feel excluded. *Feedup Warmup* in the parish could not happen without people coming together to help and support the project or without funding from generous benefactors. Ultimately, we make our Lenten journey not just to come closer to God and strengthen our faith but to be able to better help and work with others for the common good of all.