

Reflection Saturday after Ash Wednesday March 2022

Wouldn't it be good to be called *Breach-mender* and a *Restorer of ruined buildings*! Although we might prefer the terms Healer and Restorer. Jesus healed and restored both physical and spiritual health throughout his active apostolate, promoting harmony and goodness for many in the process. We need healing and restoration within the chaos and brokenness of our lives, not just for our own inner harmony but in order to be better healers and restorers for other people, especially those closest to us. Breach-mender and restorer of ruined building brings to mind the terribly distressing situation in Ukraine. The situation cries out loudly for effective healers and restorers of goodness, compassion, and healthy relations between the warring army and the innocent people of Ukraine. What is happening there is an ugly and stark reminder of the damage and destructiveness of sin and evil. It also shows that the evil-doer becomes more and more isolated from those closest to him/her. In the welcome and healing that Jesus gave to the Tax-collectors and sinners, he shows that by healing the wrong-doer many others benefit from it; not only in a more just tax but in many other ways too. The word Lent means *springtime* (Old English), a season of growth whereby colour and new life begin to appear, bringing with it new hope, new possibility, new joy, new beauty and the possibility of renewal. Lent is such a precious season filled with opportunity and possibility. Let's not squander the opportunities God offers us!!

Pope Francis' message for Lent 2022: Let us not grow tired!

Let us not grow tired of prayer. Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil. Let us not grow tired of doing good! If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God!