

Reflection Thursday 3rd Week Lent 2022

In healing, Jesus restored harmony from disharmony, repaired what was broken with healing but most of all, brought the person, in this case a dumb man, back into communion with the whole community. The purpose of sin and evil is to destroy, separate and isolate people from each other; undermining trust and virtue in the process. Whereas God wishes to create community, sin seeks to divide. The three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving all help create community. Prayer leads us into listening to God, acknowledging our dependence on God to lead us along the path Jesus has mapped out, bringing us closer together in the process. Almsgiving acknowledges our interdependence and our need to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves, seeing them not as the poor but as our brothers and sisters, as family. Fasting helps us face the fact that we cannot travel the path of the Kingdom alone, we need the support of others as they need our support along the way. This need brings us closer together and strengthens our unity, allowing us to see difference as a strength and richness not an obstacle. It prevents us from trying to fit God into our world by seeking how to best fit into God's world as God walks with us on our journey.

"The Path"

God bless the path on which we go.

God bless the earth beneath our feet.

God bless our destination.

God be a smooth way before us,

a guiding star above,

a keen eye behind,

this day, this night, and forever.

God be with us whatever we pass.

Jesus be with us whatever we climb.

Spirit be with us wherever we stay.

God be with us at each stop and each sea,

at each lying down and each rising up.

In the trough of the waves, on the crest of the billows,

and in each step of the journey we take.

Pope Francis "I call elders to be memory keepers. Grandfathers and grandmothers need to form a choir, the permanent choir of a great spiritual sanctuary, where prayers of supplication and songs of praise support the larger community that works and struggles in the field of life." "Young people need to be approached with the grammar of love, not by being preached at. The language that young people understand is spoken by those who radiate life, by those who are there for them and with them."