

Reflection Saturday after Ash Wednesday 2023

Lent offers us an opportunity to take stock and do what one might call a *Spring Clean* – even though winter is still with us. It is a time to make an inventory of life in view of finding those things that are not healthy or outdated but still hanging around. Jesus wants to help us do this more than anything. All we need to do is to ask Jesus how we want to renew our lives, what we want to discard, especially all that extra luggage we carry around that is of no use and a hinderance. We have these 40 days to work on this this renewal and to refresh and open ourselves to the graces Jesus won for us through his death and resurrection. Today we have the testimony of Levi (Matthew), the tax collector, whose life was turned around completely. Will we let Jesus do the same for us this Lent??

There is nothing like felt inadequacy to help me depend solely on God... Your emptiness accepted creates a space for God in your life. When you embrace that emptiness, God can begin to fill you. God has a plan for you. Sin is living according to your own plan. Sin is trying to fill up your own life than allowing God to fill you. Sin is being willing to stay where you are rather than go through the pain and joy of being in process. Saint Basil the Great said that sin is not using the power for good that God placed within you. Feeling in your guts your powerlessness without God is an important part of coming to union with God. . . to finally be able to own your sin and embrace it as Jesus did on the cross. Jesus embraced our sin, took it to himself, and said, " You are not guilty."... Take your sin. Feel it. Look at yourself and say, "Yes, this is me trying to live according to my own plan, and yet loved by God just the way I am." Macrina Wiederkehr osb