

Reflection Thursday 3rd Week Lent 2024

Jeremiah hit the nail on the head when he said that **sincerity** is no more. How to recover our lost sincerity must be one of our most important Lenten exercises.

Some suggest that sincere comes from two Latin words: *sine* (without) and *caries* (decay) meaning to be “*without corruption*”. Others suggest that its root is: *sine* (without) and *cero* (to smear, to coat with wax) meaning “*to be uncovered, to have a certain transparency of soul*”, to not have a coat of anything covering over you.

In fact, they both apply to sincerity.

Ronald Rolheiser writes: *At any given moment, we are a mixture of light and darkness, sincerity and hypocrisy, selflessness and selfishness, virtue and vice, grace and sin, saint and sinner. Therefore, we need to pray regularly. Contraries cannot co-exist in us so by sustaining genuine prayer in our lives eventually sincerity will weed out insincerity, selflessness will weed out selfishness, and grace will weed out sin. If we sustain genuine prayer, we will never, long-term, fall into moral rationalization. If we sustain genuine prayer, we will never grow so blind to our own sin that we will begin to have morally exempt areas in our lives. Being faithful to prayer will ensure that we will never, long-term, live double lives because prayer brings to our lives, a genuine presence of God, that will never peacefully co-exist with selfishness, sin, rationalization, self-delusion, and hypocrisy. Simply put, at some point in our lives, we will either stop praying or stop our bad behaviour. We won't be able to live with both. Our biggest danger then is to stop praying.*

This year is a year of prayer so let's pray more!