

WELCOME!

What would it take to believe in the Resurrection and be transformed?

Lent is the time to practice how we live into the belief that life overcomes death. Let us remember that the opposite of death is birth and that life is all of this... the entire cycle. Death leads to birth. Jesus's death on the cross leads to a birth of a new order, a new reality where, for those who believe, God's reign overcomes the viciousness of death.

So, instead of blaming ourselves for not being perfect or not being perfect in our relationship with God, let us do something simply different this Lent. Let us be relentless in our faith in one another and in our service to God. Let us be determined to remove every barrier that gets in the way of us being transformed into a new being, a new child of God, a new friend, a new neighbor. Let us be unyielding in our pursuit for justice and peace.

Being relentless this Season may also be understood as being re-**LENT**-less. Let us do again and again those practices of Lent (praying, fasting, almsgiving). It's simple. Let us pray so we're not tempted to believe we are in this alone. Let us fast from the dependencies we have grown accustomed to that perhaps get in the way of us feeling God's presence in the quiet moments. Let us gift to others from the very gifts that have been given to us. We all know we can do it: give money to the people in your community, especially to those most vulnerable in this moment.

Let us adopt the mantra of "less is more," especially during these historically rigorous, challenging, and divisive times. Let us not overthink how we are not measuring up, or how one faithful practice will save our souls. Instead, let us allow ourselves the space to receive God's expansive grace at the very margins of our lives. This may be uncomfortable or unsettling, but trust that God is working new things in and around you.

So, let us strengthen our resolve to begin with Ash Wednesday's humiliating AND humbling reminder, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Or let us continually pray for the courage to "Repent (or turn away from sin), and believe in the Gospel."

Let this Lent be a time to deepen our imagination, belief, and conviction that an all-powerful and merciful God entered into our world in the form of a newborn baby, walked and talked with friends, ministered with those seen as outcasts in society, debated with local church and community leaders, and transformed before our very eyes when he extended his criminal arms on the empire's cross we now elevate. Let his death-defying act, his arms outstretched, continue to invite all of us to a radical practice of openness where we are simultaneously comfortable and exposed, courageously vulnerable, and vulnerably courageous. Because that is exactly when God's love, healing, justice, and reign breaks us open to be shared with others.

Re-**LENT**-lessly in Solidarity with you,

Catholic Volunteer Network and
Catholic Apostolate Center

LOOKING FOR MORE?

Looking for more inspiration? Catholic Apostolate Center hosts an extensive library of Lenten resources on their website: www.catholicapostolatecenter.org/lent