

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2024:

CROSSROADS AND DISCERNMENT MOMENT:

Time and again we need a moment not only as Christians but as human beings to look into ourselves and channel and scheme and scan the way forward in making decisions in our lives.

The period of Lent provides us with such an opportunity to discern and make decisions. It is a period to go back into ourselves, reflect and see the way forward.

It is in Lent that the church has kept the traditions of basic things in faith, **purple colors, ashes on Ash Wednesday, fish on Fridays, stations of the cross, fasting (giving up something) almsgiving.** Lent gives us a fresh start in our Christian way of life.

This is clearly reflected on our first reading Noah and all those were in in the Arch after the great flood were saved and had **flesh beginning.** we see water **cleansing, saving and destroying.** Don't we all have those elements of water within ourselves! How are we using this vital commodity in our life as human beings. Do we allow it to clean, save or destroy? There are so many waters on our way which can be **destructive in our way of life, can destroy our marriage life, our vocations, social communal life, financial life** they can cause a lot of confusion and destruction worse than the Noah's time if not controlled. There are water floods of alcoholism, greedy, drugs, hatred, **, gambling, materialism, selfishness, revenge, pornography and even modern technology if not controlled.**

We need to be in the Arch of the church and get saved like those saved during the time of Noah. We need that covenant renewal, God will always keep his covenant but do we keep our part?

We need to be in the Arch where there is security and safety.

This can only be done in person of our Lord Jesus who has already started this journey of discernment these forty days in the desert.

The desert experience is our only salvation we need to accompany him this period equipped with the basics of this season of **prayer, fasting and ALMSGIVING.** How do we pray, when do we pray, how often do we do

it, is it only for emergence or it is a daily practice our prayer life should reflect our relationship with God. Lent is a time to diagnose the health of our prayer. **fasting and abstinence purifies our bodies, it is a barometer of our will power, it helps us discover our strength and weakness.** on the other hand ALMSGIVING or works of charity helps us to address **needs that surround us and responsibility over our brothers and sisters.**

In our relationships with God, there are moments we feel God **love and presence**, other moments we feel **no comfort and his absence.** Jesus went through such moments in all his temptation at the desert experience. The excitement of his Baptism when that voice was heard from heaven **this is my beloved son of whom am well pleased listen to him**, was followed by dryness now in the desert as he underwent temptations. would Jesus remain faithful to his mission, he could have used his special powers **to his own advantage, like turning the stone into bread when he was hungry, use his special powers to gain influence and popularity and prestige** when some of the people wanted to make him king. He could have walked away from those who came to arrest him. It was a moment of decision for him no doubt of that.

Jesus is encouraging us to remain **faithful to God especially in difficult moments.**

Let this **lent period be a moment of thinking of Gods goodness, his love and mercy and too be moment of loving him more and more and loving each other genuinely.**

WISHING YOU ALL A FRUITFUL LENT SEASON.