

The Second Message for Lent

Greetings to All the Sisters, Brothers, and Friends of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion!

We are well into the second week of our Lenten observance as we continue together on our collective journey with Jesus Christ toward Holy Week and our encounter with the Great Pascal Mystery of His suffering, death, and resurrection.

It is never too late to join in on the parade and now is as good as time as any to come along with the rest of your companions in faith as we make our way to the Holy City! We have already journeyed through the desert of testing with Christ as He, in his own humanity, confronted the power of the spirit of evil. We have climbed the Mount of Transfiguration and beheld the uncreated light of Christ's divinity, and were overcome by the cloud of the Holy Spirit, and heard the voice of the Father; an encounter with the mystery of the Divine Trinity. Now we will go with Jesus to Jerusalem to confront the corruption of religious institutionalism as He cleanses the Holy Temple in righteous indignation.

The first Sunday in Lent we had been reminded that we all must engage the reality of evil within the depths of our own hearts. The second Sunday in Lent we had been reminded of the great hope of our future Transformation and that of all creation in the Transfiguration of Christ. In the Third Sunday of Lent we will be reminded of our constant call to struggle against the systemic evils of our social institutions including our religious institutions in the world.

In this journey of the Spirit we are called to clear our eyes and see things as they really are and to see ourselves as we really are. We

do this so that like Jesus we will be able to see things as they can be and ourselves as what we can become through our participation in Christ's Paschal Mystery.

So let us continue our journey in our active involvement in prayer, both personal and communal; in works of charity; and in the discipline of abstinence; that we may prove ourselves to be faithful co-workers with Christ for the salvation of all the world.

Attached is the second chapter of that spiritual classic, The Imitation of Christ. May your reflection on this reading deepen the understanding of your heart as to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ sustain your faith and strengthen your love as you seek to be a faithful servant of the Gospel of Hope!

+Peter